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THE NEWSPAPER FOR MAIDSTONE, MALLING, LARKFIELD AND SURROUNDING VILLAGES

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Issue No 107
Available from Wednesday,
September 30, 2009



'SCAPEGOAT' CHALLENGES NHS PAY-OFF

A DISGRACED former health chief at the centre of a superbug scandal has won

BY ANNA WHITE

Wells NHS Trust when two outbreaks of Clostridium difficile led to the death of at least 90 patients.

Ms Gibb had attempted to sue the trust for breach of contract after it refused to pay her the full £250,000 she had been offered to resign.

But in April the judge at the High Court, Mr Justice Treacy, dismissed her claims and refused her permission to appeal the ruling.

After pursuing further legal advice, Ms Gibb's union, Managers in Partnership (MiP), confirmed on

Wednesday last week that the Court of Appeal has granted her right to appeal the judgment. The appeal will be held in February next year.

However, the court has decided to only consider whether the NHS trust had the power to agree the £250,000 payment, it will not consider any other grounds, such as the assurances she was given by her former employer.

Lawyers for Ms Gibb will ask the Court of Appeal at a hearing on November 13 to admit the other grounds of appeal.

MiP chief executive Jon Restell said: "We will now wait to see what happens in the next round of legal

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



her appeal to challenge the High Court decision to block her £250,000 pay-off.

Rose Gibb was in charge of Maidstone and Tunbridge



Picture: ANNA WHITE

PUSHED TO PROTEST

This parliamentary candidate pushed a pram from Maidstone to Pembury on Sunday to highlight the risk women in labour will face if planned changes to maternity services go-ahead.

Tory Helen Grant was joined by a convoy of well-wishers in cars and lorries as she walked the 17 miles to campaign against Maidstone Hospital losing its full maternity unit in place of a midwife-led unit.

Health bosses want to relocate full maternity services to the new super-hospital in Pembury in 2011, but opponents say the journey from Maidstone to Pembury will place women in labour at risk.

FULL STORY ON PAGE 3

ISSN 1753-121-7



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Printed by Newsfax

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River quality results better, say experts

EXCLUSIVE

BY ANNA WHITE

THE stretch of the River Medway running through Maidstone is not as badly polluted as feared.

Experts had predicted the Medway would remain in a poor state for the next six years.

Results released by the Environment Agency (EA) last year labelled the ecological quality of the section of the river that flows through the county town as bad, and stated that it would stay in that condition until at least 2015.

But a study released this week by the environmental watchdog show that the river's ecological potential is now at a 'moderate' standard.

The EA put the Medway's improved results down to gathering more data, which has led to better quality assessments, plus it has included extra improvements.

The results are part of the agency's River Basin Management Plans, which outline its proposals to improve and protect the country's water environment.

For the plans the agency predicts what a river's standard will be in 2015. The River Medway, which falls under the Thames River Basin, remains moderate, but it is likely its rating will increase by 2027.

A spokesman for EA said: "It (the River Medway) suffers from phosphate pollution, which is affecting the invertebrates – an important part of the food chain for fish and other wildlife.

"However, it's also heavily modified for flood protection and for navigation. Technically, it isn't feasible to mitigate all the impacts of these modifications by 2015."



IMPROVED: The Medway flowing through Maidstone is less polluted than a year ago

Other improvements to the town centre river include a new fish pass at Allington Lock – where the lock gates are being replaced.

The report for rivers in England and Wales shows that only five of the 6,000 rivers surveyed are classified as pristine, but the agency maintains that the country's waters are improving and wildlife is returning.

In a statement, EA chief executive Paul Leinster said: "Our rivers are at their cleanest for over a century, which is why we are seeing the return of otters, eels and salmon to the Thames, Mersey and Tyne.

"We need to go further to meet the new EU measures for water quality. That is why we have announced plans to clean up 9,000 miles of river over the next five years."

The River Basin Management Plans, once approved, will be published on December 22.

yourmaidstone NEWS IN BRIEF

Talks bring funding reprieve for school

A SCHOOL has won a last-minute funding reprieve following a successful meeting between its headteacher and Education Secretary Ed Balls.

Mascalls School in Paddock Wood had been expecting to receive £195,000 for an extra 50 pupils in its sixth form this year, but the money was taken away by the Learning and Skills Council in June.

However, it has now been returned following a meeting set up by Greg Clark, the Conservative MP for Tunbridge Wells.

He said: "I hope successful schools will not be penalised again."

Rare ferrets stolen from hutch in garden

AN APPEAL has been launched after ten rare ferrets were stolen from a back garden.

Police said the garden in Plains Avenue, Maidstone, was broken into through between 5.30am and 4.15pm last Wednesday, and the animals, which have white fur and black eyes, were taken from their hutches.

Two carrying boxes were also stolen and officers believe a getaway vehicle could have been used because there is a car park behind the house.

Anyone with information can call police on 01622 690055, or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Baby fair has wealth of advice for parents

MUMS and dads-to-be or parents with young children can stock up on all the essential baby items at a specialist fair this weekend.

The Royal Star Arcade, in Maidstone town centre, is hosting the Pregnancy and Baby Fair, from 11am to 3pm, this Saturday.

Stalls confirmed include those offering advice, cloth nappies, birthing pools, homebirth groups, post pregnancy exercise, reflexology, baby sensory, ultrasound services, and independent antenatal classes.

There will also be demonstrations taking place throughout the day.



For information and advice on travelling in Kent and for all our traffic regulation orders, please see the Kent on Saturday or the Kent on Sunday or visit our website at www.kent.gov.uk/highways



Pram push highlights maternity move risks

■ BY ANNA WHITE

TORY hopeful Helen Grant pushed a pram from Maidstone to Pembury on Sunday to draw attention to the dangers of moving maternity services from the county town.

She completed the 17-mile trek from Maidstone Hospital to the site of Pembury Hospital – where the consultant-led maternity unit will be moved to in 2011.

Mrs Grant, the prospective parliamentary candidate for Maidstone and Weald, launched the protest to highlight the risks mothers could face if they have to travel that extra distance while in labour.

Dozens of supporters joined former BBC South East Today presenter Geoff Clark at Maidstone Hospital to see Mrs Grant off, shortly after 9am on Sunday.

Wellwishers included Maidstone council leader Chris Garland; cabinet member for leisure and culture Brian Moss; Maidstone rural east county councillor Jenny Whittle, and Mrs Grant's parliamentary rival, Liberal Democrat Peter Carroll.

Before the push got under way, Cllr Garland said: "The council supports this campaign. Maidstone has a population of 148,000 and to move its consultant-led maternity unit to Pembury is foolish."

Before the walk a convoy of lorries – all members of Marden Business Forum – drove past the hospital and sounded their horns in support. A road sweeper, supplied by Scarab Sweepers, stayed with Mrs Grant throughout



PUSHING HARD: Helen Grant and Geoff Clark with supporters at Maidstone Hospital at the start of the 17-mile walk the entire route.

Mrs Grant walked through Wateringbury, Nettlestead Green, East Peckham, Paddock Wood and Matfield, before arriving at Pembury Hospital at 2.50pm.

After completing the route, she told Yourmaidstone: "I have stiff legs, sore feet and a few blisters, but that's nothing compared with the stress, pain and potential threats that will be endured by Maidstone mums having to travel this journey while in a dangerous stage of labour."

"I hope the pram push has served to highlight the issue and raise awareness. We must contin-

ue to apply pressure and seek a review of the decision by the Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust."

Mrs Grant was also collecting signatures for a petition against the move she plans to send to Health Secretary Andy Burnham.

Despite the backlash, Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust intend to go ahead with the move, saying it will considerably improve the standards of care for women and children.

Under the proposal, Maidstone will only have a midwifery birthing unit from 2011.



CAMPAIGN: Peter Carroll, left, and backers

Thousands sign up to Lib Dem petition

MORE than 2,000 people have joined an online petition against relocating Maidstone's consultant-led maternity unit.

The Keep Full Maternity in Maidstone group on social networking site Facebook was set up by Liberal Democrat parliamentary hopeful Peter Carroll.

Mr Carroll launched the campaign to block Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust's plans to move the unit to the new Pembury Hospital in 2011. At the time of writing 2,289 had joined the group.

Mr Carroll said: "As well as the large numbers joining to show support, many people have actually posted stories of their own experiences of maternity services."

"Some postings are upsetting and traumatic. These have made me even more determined to win this campaign."

Dangerous

A mum wrote: "I had all my children at Maidstone and in 2001 had a low-risk delivery which turned dramatically and resulted in the death of my baby during the final stages of labour and me losing three pints of blood."

"Anything can happen and you need a specialist team ... to remove that is down-right dangerous. They couldn't save my little one, but they saved me. I really hope they rethink this proposal."

Mr Carroll and his team have delivered more than 18,000 petition forms to households across Maidstone and another 8,000 are expected to be delivered this week.

To sign Mr Carroll's petition, visit www.petercarroll.org.uk/petitions.

Ex-NHS boss Gibb's appeal over pay-off

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE
preliminaries in November."

Court papers used in Ms Gibb's High Court case against the trust showed she had originally aimed for a severance package of £300,000, which was then reduced to £250,000.

At the time of the scandal, Health Secretary Alan Johnson stopped the trust giving Ms Gibb the six-figure payout. Instead she received £75,000 – half of her salary as chief executive.

While giving evidence during the case, Ms Gibb claimed her former employer had used her as a "scape-goat".

She also said the Healthcare Commission report, which was published just days after she resigned, and revealed poor hygiene, infection control methods and ineffective leadership, was "full of inaccuracies, innuendo and unfounded criticisms".

The trust argued that to pay her the full compensation would be "irrational and generous in the circumstances", and welcomed the High Court's ruling to refuse the pay-out and for Ms Gibb to pay costs, which for the trust alone were expected to be £90,000.

E.coli farm tot is home but twin still in hospital

ONE of the twin boys who suffered kidney failure after contracting E.coli has returned home, while his brother remains in hospital.

Two-year-old Todd Furnell arrived back at the family home in Paddock Wood on Thursday, after undergoing dialysis to treat the infection he and his brother contracted after a visit to an animal petting centre at Godstone Farm, Surrey.

His brother, Aaron, remains on dialysis at St Thomas' Hospital, London.

Their mother, Tracy Mock, told the BBC her partner had taken Todd home while she stayed with Aaron.

She said: "Todd's going home, which I'm really pleased about. He's doing really well."

"Unfortunately, Aaron has to stay in. He's still on dialysis."

According to the BBC the number of E.coli cases linked to Godstone Farm has risen to 79.

The petting farm was closed on

Saturday September 12, more than two weeks after the first outbreak of E.coli was detected and 12 days after Miss Mock took her family there, on August 31.

Latest tests from the Veterinary Laboratories Agency (VLA) have revealed that the O157 infection was present in 33 samples out of 102 taken from the farm's ewes, lambs, goats, ponies, pigs, goats and cattle.

The twins' mother has criticised the Health Protection Agency (HPA) for not closing the petting farm as soon as the first case was reported.

She said: "I'm so angry. They should have closed it down as soon as they realised what was wrong."

"Instead they have turned my family's life into a living nightmare. They have played a lottery with my children's health."

A total of five farms in England have been closed since the initial outbreak.



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yourmaidstone
NEWS IN BRIEF**Afghan teen in sex attack case could be deported**

A TEENAGER has pleaded guilty to sexually assaulting two 12-year-old girls in a swimming pool in Maidstone.

A hearing at Maidstone Crown Court on Monday last week heard that the 17-year-old offender, who is from Afghanistan, admitted touching the two girls while they were swimming at Mote Park Leisure Centre in May this year.

The teenager, who cannot be named due to his age, is awaiting sentencing and could face deportation if ruled by the court.

Thousands get back to nature at park wildlife day

FAMILIES flocked to Mote Park at the weekend to discover the different wildlife living and growing in the park's surroundings.

More than 2,000 people enjoyed the Kent Goes Wild event on Saturday and Sunday, and took part in the fun activities hosted by Kent County Council and Maidstone council.

Youngsters tried pond-dipping, bark-rubbing, identifying trees, leaves and creatures on the sea shore, as well as being a mammal detective and trying craft activities.

Stolen bronze statues are deer to owners

A FAMILY of bronze deer statues has been stolen from a back garden of a watermill.

The father, mother and two young deer figurines, were taken from the mill in Lovehurst Lane, Staplehurst, between 6pm on September 18 and 1pm on September 21.

The largest deer stands at 4ft 6in and the smallest is 1ft, standing in a grazing position.

If you have any information, call police on 01622 690055 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Age Concern cash prize boost for the New Year

PEOPLE can win £1,000 by entering a free prize draw being held by charity.

Age Concern Maidstone is offering the promotion to over 18s at its base in Mill Street, Maidstone, from October 1 to December 31.

Entrants can also get advice from Age Concern staff on services and products. The draw will take place on January 15, 2010.

Call Age Concern Maidstone on 01622 753618, visit the team's Maidstone office, or log on to www.ageconcern.org.uk/products.

Future of ambulance station under threat

■ BY ANNA WHITE

MAIDSTONE Ambulance Station is facing closure if a bid to build one depot to serve the whole of Kent goes ahead.

South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Trust has confirmed it is in early stages of plans to roll out its award-winning Make Ready initiative across the whole of its region.

If given the green light, the scheme could see a main depot built at Paddock Wood, with ambulance stations in Maidstone, Cranbrook, Tunbridge Wells, Tonbridge and Sevenoaks being shut.

Downscaled

A spokesman for the ambulance service said some of these stations may become response posts, but he said it is too early in the planning process to name which stations will close or be downscaled.

He stressed that no services would be lost.

The South East trust already operates two Make Ready depots in Chertsey, Surrey, and in Hastings, East Sussex.

It claims the new single major depot for Kent would enhance and improve its service by minimising the risk of cross-infection and by freeing up frontline crews who traditionally clean and re-stock ambulances.

The new scheme promises to ensure vehicles are regularly deep-cleaned, restocked and checked for mechanical faults.



ON THE MOVE: Ambulances will travel from Paddock Wood to Maidstone Hospital if plans for new depot go-ahead

Senior operations manager for the Weald and south Kent, Steve Rose, said: "Make Ready is part of modernising and improving the service we provide to patients.

"We already have two depots and we are now discussing how the trust continues to roll out this award-winning initiative across the whole of our operational area of Kent, Surrey and Sussex.

"These discussions have already begun with staff and will continue to take place, as it's important that staff are involved every step of the way.

"Improving patient outcomes and response times to patients requires our vehicles and crews to be where the public need them to be, when they need them; this is why you might see an ambulance on 'standby' in locations that are not ambulance stations because they are closer to patient demand."

When asked about the proposed changes Maidstone and Weald MP Ann Widdecombe said: "The plans are still at an early stage so when they have developed we will have to see if the changes will affect the service locally."



NEW DIRECTION: PCSO Rose Sparrowhawk

Hawkeye in the community

A FORMER optician grew so tired of hearing customers complain about the community that she decided to change her career.

Rose Sparrowhawk says she wanted to find solutions for people's problems and to do this she enrolled on a training course to become a police community support officer.

She said: "I was in my old job for six years and often found that people would talk to me about problems. It's nice that I am now able to do something to help."

PCSO Sparrowhawk has been in her new role for about six weeks, covering the Kings Hill and West Malling area, and has already seen great results.

Residents and businesses in Kings Hill

complained about youths congregating in the area, cycling on footpaths, littering and sometimes causing a nuisance.

In an attempt to solve the problem, PCSO Sparrowhawk called a meeting and 20 youths attended who said they would like somewhere to go, which has now led to the possibility of building a skate park in the area.

She has also had success with cracking down on inconsiderate parking and littering.

PCSO Sparrowhawk often travels between West Malling Police Station and Kings Hill by bus, to give her the chance to speak to residents and visitors.

To contact her, call 07989 992443.

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STAR-STUDED: Aaron Sidwell, bottom right, with the cast of the panto Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs

Actor thrilled to join panto cast in home town

THE stars of this year's panto at the Hazlitt Theatre say they are looking forward to being booed and jeered.

Audiences at the traditional Christmas event in Maidstone will be treated to a star-studded production of Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs.

Starring as lovable Prince Charming will be local boy Aaron Sidwell, best known for playing Stephen Beale in EastEnders.

Snow White will be taken on by Holly Matthews, who played Leigh-Ann Galloway in BBC drama Waterloo Road, but has also appeared in The Bill and Doctors.

The Wicked Queen's henchman will be played by Wayne Gordon, who is also known as Doom in Sky One's hit show Gladiators.

Back by popular demand after his appearance in last year's show is comedian Tom Swift, who will play Muddles the Jester.

Sidwell, 21, was born and raised in Kingswood, Maidstone, and is looking forward to coming back to his home town to be in the show.

He said: "I had always wanted to do a panto as they are so much fun and when I was offered the part in this show I jumped at it, as it will be great to perform in my home town."

■ BY ANNA WHITE

Sidwell also confessed he would like to return to EastEnders one day to reprise the role of Ian Beale's troubled son.

Among the TV star line-up is Pop Idol finalist Tina Perry, who will play the Wicked Queen and has guaranteed she will be belting out some big musical numbers, and Jimmy Burton-Iles, from CBBC's Basil Brush, who will be Harry the henchman.

This will be the second year running that New World Productions have taken the reins of Hazlitt's Christmas pantomime and director Guy Pascall has promised it is going to be bigger and better than last year.

He said: "It's going to be great fun for all the family. This show will take the original story of Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs and give it a new twist."

"We've got plenty of great comedy routines and some amazing visuals, such as a wacky Magic Mirror and the craziest Seven Dwarfs you've ever seen."

Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs will run at the theatre in Earl Street from December 5 to January 10.

Tickets are on sale now, priced £6.50 to £12.50, and can be bought from the theatre box office on 01622 758 611, or online at www.hazlittartscentre.com.

yourmaidstone NEWS IN BRIEF

Family win compensation

A FAMILY offered just a free meal after their daughter suffered a near-fatal electric shock at a hotel in Kenya have won a four-year battle for compensation.

Alexandra Miles, from Maidstone, was 11 when she suffered the 240-volt shock from a shower at the Kilifi Bay Resort.

According to a national newspaper the incident on Christmas Day 2005 left her with severe trauma to the heart and partially paralysed.

The four-star hotel offered the family a free meal and a bottle of wine, but its staff later demanded payment for the dinner.

The family have been awarded £52,000.

The ambulance was allegedly so filthy and ill-equipped that the crew had to use the stopwatch on Alexandra's mother's mobile phone to check her pulse.

Mum Joanna said: "We were terrified we were going to lose our only child."

Mayor's double opening

A NEW nursery and watersports academy have been officially opened by the Mayor of Tonbridge and Malling.

Mayor Sue Murray cut the ribbon of Holborough Day Nursery, in Holborough Lakes, near West Malling, on September 3.

She also opened the Nemes Dive and Watersports Academy, based in Berkeley Homes' award-winning housing development.

The main lake drops to 11m deep and is perfect for the academy's scuba diving activities, as well as diving courses, sailing, canoeing, kayaking, fishing and environmental study projects.

Jailed for catapult attack

A MAN who pelted a group of teenagers with stones after they refused to hand over money has been sentenced to two years in prison.

Robert King, 19, attempted to rob the youngsters of their mobile phones and cash in Brenchley Gardens, Maidstone, in September last year, and threatened each of them in turn with a catapult.

When the group ran away, King used the weapon to fire stones at them.

He was sentenced last week after pleading guilty to attempted robbery during an earlier hearing at Maidstone Crown Court.

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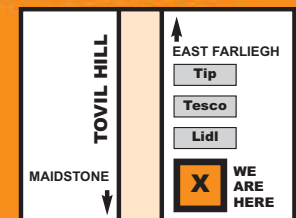
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Purse thief facing deportation

A BULGARIAN woman is facing deportation after being jailed for stealing a purse in a town centre shopping mall.

Stefka Petrova, 38, of Tottenham, north London, was caught stealing from a handbag by a shopper in Bon Marche, in The Mall Chequers, on Saturday, August 29.

She appeared in court on August 31 and pleaded guilty to theft.

Petrova was sentenced to 84 days in prison after a brief hearing at Maidstone Magistrates Court on Monday last week.

The court also recommended she be deported at the end of her jail term.

Petrova was caught after the owner of

the purse was alerted and grabbed her arm to stop her escaping.

The thief managed to break free and used the fire escape to avoid police and changed her outer clothing to fool officers, but she was captured on CCTV cameras leaving the shopping centre.

PC Fiona Brice said: "Following a number of purse thefts in the town centre, we were pleased that we could bring this offender to justice."

"Hopefully this will send a message that pick-pocketing will not be tolerated."

"I would advise to shoppers to please be aware of their possessions."

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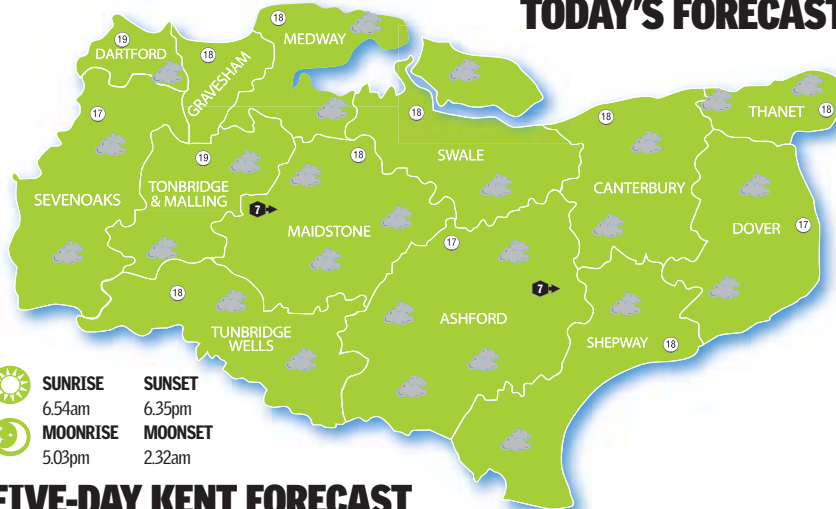
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Canterbury	18°C	18°C	15°C	16°C	17°C	Maidstone	19°C	19°C	16°C	17°C	17°C
Chatham	18°C	18°C	16°C	16°C	17°C	Ramsgate	18°C	18°C	15°C	16°C	17°C
Dartford	20°C	19°C	17°C	17°C	17°C	Rochester	18°C	18°C	16°C	16°C	17°C
Dover	17°C	17°C	15°C	15°C	17°C	Sevenoaks	17°C	17°C	15°C	15°C	15°C
Faversham	18°C	18°C	16°C	16°C	17°C	Sittingbourne	18°C	18°C	16°C	16°C	17°C
Folkestone	17°C	17°C	15°C	15°C	17°C	Tonbridge	19°C	18°C	16°C	15°C	15°C
Gillingham	18°C	18°C	16°C	16°C	17°C	Tun Wells	19°C	18°C	16°C	15°C	15°C



WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

Chatham	Saturday	1:03pm	5.8m
	Sunday	1:35pm	6.0m
Dover	Saturday	11:18am	6.4m
	Sunday	11:46am	6.6m
Dungeness	Saturday	11:22am	7.4m
	Sunday	11:54am	7.7m
Ramsgate	Saturday	11:48am	4.9m
	Sunday	12:16pm	5.0m
Sheerness	Saturday	12:52pm	5.6m
	Sunday	1:25pm	5.7m
Whitstable	Saturday	12:51pm	5.2m
	Sunday	1:24pm	5.2m



AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	18°C	Madrid	24°C
Athens	23°C	New York	18°C
Barcelona	24°C	Paris	21°C
Beijing	24°C	Rome	26°C
Bombay	30°C	Sydney	20°C
Cape Town	18°C	Tenerife	23°C
Cardiff	17°C	Tokyo	26°C
Gibraltar	23°C	Vancouver	14°C
Hong Kong	26°C	Warsaw	20°C
Las Palmas	28°C	Wellington	13°C



Runner Julie helping to make wishes come true

A WOMAN from Maidstone was the first female runner to complete the Great North Run in aid of the Make-a-Wish Foundation. Julie Yeomans completed the half-marathon in Tyneside on Sunday, September 20, in just two hours.

This made her the first female finisher for Make-a-Wish, which is the UK's leading wish-granting charity for children and young people fighting life-threatening illnesses.

Ms Yeomans, pictured above, said: "I feel great to be the first female back, that's a great achievement. I work with autistic children so I really wanted to run for a charity that makes a difference to children's lives."

"I found Make-A-Wish when I was browsing the internet and I love what the charity does."

People who would like to take part in fundraising events for Make-A-Wish can call 01276 405080 or visit www.make-a-wish.org.uk.

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QUESTION & ANSWER

PETER BULL



Q How did you become involved in Channel 4's series *How the Other Half Live*?

A Since I was named entrepreneur of the year by Ernst and Young in 2007, I have had various television channels calling me to try and get me to do different shows, but when Channel 4 called and told me about this one it was really something I could associate with and wanted to be involved in. I know what it's like to have money troubles and grow up on a council estate so when they said about the show, I knew it was something I could get stuck in to.

Q Your family was paired up with the Cuthberts as a potential family to sponsor, what was it about them that stood out to you?

A One of the main things that I liked about the Cuthbert family was how they worked in their family circle, plus they were facing eviction when I first met them and I wanted to do something to help. I could relate to them as I remember when I was growing up in south London, I used to have to hide behind the sofa with my mum from the debt collectors and rent man, so I know what it's like to be in that position. I also saw a lot of myself in young Sam, (aged 11) who has a paper round at an early age, like I did, and is a bit of an artful dodger type character.

Q You gave the Cuthbert family more than £4,000, a new life in the countryside, and offered to pay for Jimmy and Toni's wedding, as well as giving Jimmy a job at one of your

caravan parks - did you ever expect that you would help to that extent?

A I wasn't too sure what to expect, but without sounding condescending to the other episodes in the series, I didn't want to give the family a new plasma television or laptop, I wanted to help them get somewhere and get them to sign up for a change. They showed me that they wanted to change and get out of London, so I gave them a helping hand.

Q How would you say your help has changed the Cuthbert family?

A They are doing really well in their new life and Jimmy loves his new job as a security warden at one of my caravan parks in Felixstowe. Sam is still the same and has started his own business at the caravan park, offering to walk dogs. He is a character and I think he has a good future ahead of him, he's a hard worker. They still have money worries but don't we all, but they know I'm here if they need any advice. As for the wedding, we have offered to have it at the Hop Farm in February next year and I'm planning on making it a big event.

Q What is your relationship with the family now?

A We still keep in touch and they have my number. I wouldn't say we are best mates but we have expanded our circle of friends and they are lovely people, let's just say they are on our Christmas list now.

Q How has the experience affected you and your family?

A My wife Julie and I know that kind of life so we weren't too phased when we went to visit them in north London. To be honest, it went straight over my daughter Masie's head, who is eight, but Rosie, who is 11, went very quiet and was quite shocked. I'm glad that they got to see that way of life so they can appreciate what they have and realise you have to work for it. My saying has always been you shouldn't be embarrassed of where your roots are or if you asked for help, like I did, and be proud of where you have come from.

Q What reactions have you had from other people?

A We have received some really lovely and positive comments, especially from people on the Channel 4 website. A lot of people have left things on the site which are really heart-warming.

Q Would you do anything like this again?

A I really enjoyed it and I think the whole family did, so I would do it again, definitely. I wanted to do it as the situation was something I could relate to and it was just a nice thing to do. I have always said if I help someone, then someone else will help me along the way, and I truly believe that.

Q & A

The self-made millionaire and owner of the Hop Farm Family Park spoke to **Anna White** about his appearance on the TV documentary series *How the Other Half Live*, in which he helped a struggling family start a new life

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EDITOR'S CHOICE

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Former addict has turned his life around and is helping others trapped by drugs

'If I can keep one person out of prison, it will be worth it'

Drug addiction's link to crimes committed to pay for the habit is well known. Darren Dilloway has served time in prison for drug offences but now works with the police and drug agencies to help people trapped by addiction. As part of our A Safer Kent campaign, taking a behind the scenes look at the work of Kent Police, **TOM BETTS** meets a man who has been on both sides of the system



TURNING your life around when you are fighting a £100-a-day drug habit is no easy task, but Darren Dilloway is living proof that it can be done.

At the peak of his addiction, Darren was living in a nightmare, flitting between prison and hostels, with a spate of convictions, heroin overdoses and near-death experiences under his belt.

He was losing the battle and thinks would be dead by now if he hadn't finally decided to try and escape and salvage something from life. He said: "At one point I would honestly rather have been in prison than free. You get three meals a day, have no bills to pay and are looked after in way."

Darren, 34, grew up in the Medway towns of Gillingham and Chatham and found himself in trouble with the police in his early teens.

He dabbled with drugs such as cannabis, ecstasy, cocaine and LSD, before an addiction to speed got the better of him and he started stealing to pay for his habit.

Skipping school, unemployment, hanging around aimlessly and car crime became the norm and he soon found himself inside, where he first took heroin.

"Many people start to do it when they go inside as a 'bird-killer', to pass the time quicker, and when I got out I realised I was addicted," he said.

Years of addiction followed, with crack joining heroin on his daily wish list.

He said: "All that interested me each day was getting money to buy drugs, taking drugs and everything that went with it. I knew the risks but still I'd have tried anything. I was stuck in a vicious circle."

Talking about his crimes, he said: "The worst thing I've done is street robberies and burglaries."

"At one point I wouldn't think anything of breaking into four or five houses a day at the peak of my addiction. It didn't occur to me that there were victims, you don't really think like that."

However, after he last came out of prison, for a garage robbery, Darren decided he had to make a change.



DARREN DILLOWAY: 'I was stuck in a vicious circle'

He said: "It had got to the point where I was sick of it. I decided I could beat it but even now it's an ongoing thing. I know that I could walk out of here and have the drugs I wanted in my

hand in an hour, it's that easy. I have to take each day as it comes."

Making the break with his old life and many old friends and acquaintances was part of the process. "I have had to take myself away from my old life, and isolate myself from a lot of people," he said.

Darren has been clean for 18 months and has carved himself a new life. He has successfully completed a rehabilitation requirement and day programme and is facing the future with a renewed sense of hope.

Now he is volunteering and helping others with their drug problems and has managed to get himself a flat in Gillingham to start a new life.

Support

Eventually he hopes to get a job as a drug support worker, helping young people understand what a life as a drug addict can be like.

He said: "I want my story to be out there as it can show people they can turn their lives around."

"It's hard and you have to be ready and stable in life, but it is possible. If I can keep one person out of prison it will have been worth it."

Chief Superintendent Steve Corbishley, who is in charge of the Medway area for Kent Police, arrested Darren when he was causing trouble and has seen him start to turn his life around.

"I am delighted Darren is helping stop others turning to crime," said Chief Supt Corbishley.

"He can talk to offenders and potential offenders in language they understand, and get across the message that crime really does not pay."

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SmartWater will trap flytippers

■ BY ANNA WHITE

KENT has become the first county in the UK to use a hi-tech forensic marker spray to catch and deter flytippers.

SmartWater is a permanent and invisible marking tool that is mainly used to protect property, but Clean Kent has now become the first agency to use the tool in this innovative way.

The Clean Kent campaign is a multi-agency project led by Kent County Council in partnership with district and borough councils, Kent Police, Kent Fire and Rescue Service, the Crown Prosecution Service, the Highways Agency and the Environmental Agency.

With help from former BBC TV Watchdog presenter Nicky Campbell, who now presents the breakfast show on Radio 5, the agencies demonstrated at Maidstone Studios how SmartWater will play a crucial part in the ongoing campaign to crack down on flytipping in Kent.

Residents will be able to spray SmartWater on household waste before it is disposed of. If it is then found illegally dumped, officers can detect SmartWater using ultraviolet light and trace it back to the trader responsible.

The invisible coding spray will remain on any object permanently, even if it is burnt, making it possible to trace the waste back to



SMART MOVE: (From left) Clean Kent co-ordinator Melanie Price, Nicky Campbell, Kent Fire and Rescue Service assistant director of community safety Steve Griffiths, and SmartWater chief executive Phil Cleary

flytippers trying to cover their tracks.

Clean Kent co-ordinator at KCC, Melanie Price, said: "SmartWater has been used throughout the country, and globally, to mark property, but we have been innovative enough to come up with this unique way of using it to deter flytipping."

"Because it is invisible there is no way a trader could know if they are dumping unmarked waste illegally or marked waste. We are hoping the risk will deter them and reduce flytipping in Kent."

SmartWater chief executive Phil Cleary, whose brother invented the product, said: "The



BRIGHT IDEA: SmartWater shows up under UV light

use of SmartWater will help reinforce the message to criminals that Kent is now a no-go zone for flytippers. Through SmartWater, Clean Kent will have the technology to pursue convictions and will actively do so.

"SmartWater maintains a 100 per cent conviction rate when used as evidence in court, which will send a strong message to anyone considering flytipping."

The scheme is being piloted in the Swale and Sevenoaks areas first, before it is rolled out to the rest of Kent.

People found guilty of fly-tipping can face prison sentences of up to five years or a maximum fine of £50,000.

PAT CRAWFORD gives wildlife gardening advice from Hadlow College in her exclusive column for Yourmaidstone

THE barbecue summer we were promised never materialised, but we have been enjoying an Indian summer.

We are coming up to an excellent time to plant a useful bulb vegetable: garlic. A member of the onion family, garlic (*Allium sativum*) prefers a light soil with a pH of about six to seven.

Plant the cloves sufficiently deep to just cover them. Allow something like six inches between cloves, double that between rows. If the weather does continue warm and dry, water the plot gently. The garlic will be ready to harvest when

Too late for the barbie, but garlic's time is here

the leaves start to turn yellow. Lift the bulbs carefully and spread them in a sunny position to dry out. It's important not to allow the bulbs to get wet, so a greenhouse or other undercover position is ideal. Garlic can be stored for months in cool (but frost-free) garages and sheds. In recent years garlic has

made a comeback in British kitchens. It is sometimes perceived as a 'modern' ingredient, but in fact was grown from at least 3000 BC. The ancient Egyptians attached ceremonial significance to it, and the Greeks and Romans believed it to have magical powers.

It is better to buy bulbs from a nursery or garden centre, although those bought from a greengrocer may shoot and grow. Garlic features in natural remedies and is said to be effective in the treatment of skin complaints. It is considered especially beneficial for reducing high cholesterol.

•Membership of Hadlow College's Broadview Gardening Club is free. For an application form, send an SAE to Pat Crawford, Hadlow College, TN11 0AL.



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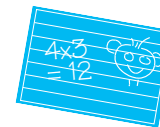
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BREAK TIME



LEWIS WHO? Academy youngsters lining up to race at Buckmore Park international kart circuit

In pole position after help with town clean-up

A GROUP of students were allowed to whizz round a racetrack as a reward for picking up litter from the county town's streets.

Ten youngsters from New Line Learning and Cornwallis academies helped Maidstone council staff clean up the town centre.

As a reward they enjoyed a racing session at Buckmore Park, near Chatham, and for some it was their first time ever behind a wheel.

After the students had finished doing their best impressions of Formula One driver Lewis Hamilton – who honed his skills at Buckmore Park as a youngster – they each received a pack of goodies from the circuit as a memento of their day at the races.

Up and running, thanks to mile legend Sir Roger

■ BY ANNA WHITE

SPORTS legend Sir Roger Bannister has officially opened a new running track in Sutton Valence.

Sir Roger is regarded as one of Britain's greatest ever athletes and in 1954 became the first man to run a mile in under four minutes.

The feat was thought to be impossible at the time and although his record was beaten soon after, Sir Roger's achievement is one of the most famous in athletics history.

The 75-year-old opened the new eight-lane floodlit track at Sutton Valence School on Tuesday, last week.

He was given the honour of firing a starting pistol before four budding athletes christened the track with a mile-long relay race.

The four lucky youngsters were Martin Brockman and Natalie Gray, from Medway and Maidstone Athletics Club, and Sutton Valence School pupils Emma Baxter and Simon Goldsworthy, who completed a lap each to finish the mile in four minutes 19 seconds.

Sir Roger also unveiled a plaque bearing the date of the track's opening and gave a speech to the crowd of guests, pupils and staff.

Among them were Mayor of Maidstone Peter Parvin; borough council leader Chris Garland; the council's cabinet member for leisure and culture Brian Moss; Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Kent Bill Cockcroft; and shadow sports and Olympics minister, and MP for Faversham



ON YOUR MARKS: Sir Roger Bannister fires the starting pistol for the first race on the new £800,000 running track

and Mid Kent, Hugh Robertson.

Sir Roger told guests how he gained his inspiration from one of Britain's greatest-ever middle distance runners Sidney Wooderson – who is an old Suttonian.

He said: "He became my hero. He was modest and unassuming, but a great club runner."

"Sport is common to us all. We should love it and take a pride in it. Now, with the London 2012 Olympics on the horizon, what an opportunity we have."

Headteacher Bruce Grindlay said: "This is a facility which will serve our school and the community, sharing and enhancing both state and independent school traditions. It will breathe new life and purpose into this part of

the school, allowing young people to benefit from it, to learn from it and to excel on it."

The track at Sutton Valence has been partly funded by the school, Maidstone council and Medway and Maidstone Athletics Club at a cost of £800,000.

It is one of the finest in the county and has been earmarked as a training venue for teams preparing for the 2012 Olympics.

Building work started in March and the track is on schedule to be completed next month.

Once open, the facility will host competitions and be open to athletics club members five days a week. Training sessions for the public will also be held at the track.

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Gary Wright asks why waste time considering a law that will always blame drivers in collisions with bicycles?



Surely cyclists are the worst example of green arrogance

THE cyclist may just be the best example yet of that self-righteous arrogance that has spoiled Britain over the past 20 years.

I tended to believe that the militant anti-smoker represented all that was worst about this country.

And be clear here, I mean the irritating, supercilious ANTI-smoker as opposed to the far less dangerous NON-smoker, who accepts that people have different ways to live their lives and that compromise is one of the best attributes a person can possess.

That holier-than-thou mentality runs so deep in these people that I have discovered over the years that the ANTI-smoker normally has a string of other unreasonable intolerances that mean he, or she, is not a person with whom I will choose to spend my free time.

They represent the worst of PC Britain and those people like fundamental Christians (well fundamental anyone really) who simply

believe they are right because it's too difficult to reconsider or admit you're wrong (anyone who took huge, spiteful delight in the law against smoking in public places).

But the militant bicyclist has come up on the outside and is now proving to be the most dangerous green Nazi in existence.

We have spent millions of pounds in local taxes and Lotto grants to build them a network of cycle paths across our fair isle.

But that's not good enough. Now Cycling England – an agency we fund through the Transport Department – wants the civil law to be changed so that drivers are automatically liable in the event of a crash. No matter who is at fault.

So the Lycra Louts – who ride like they own the road, ignoring traffic lights and using the pavement when it suits them, especially in big cities – will have even less reason to be careful.

They'll be secure in the knowledge that when they do smash head-on into a truck as they go the wrong way down a one-way street (which is another change in the law being con-

sidered), while they are recovering in hospital, at my expense, they will also know that compensation will be on its way from Mr Truck driver who is automatically to blame.

Surely this is madness.

Cyclists are at best a bunch of well-meaning folk who think that a mode of transport invented in the 19th century has a place on our busy 21st century roads. Incorrect.

At worst they are hoodlums who disregard the Highway Code believing they have the moral high ground because they are not polluting our planet.

Witness the ridiculous anger they've shown over Boris Johnson's sensible plan to open bus lanes to commuters on scooters and motorcycles. Absolute common sense and yet they have protested with an anger not seen since the last anti-foxhunt protest outside Parliament.

When cyclists start paying road tax (or VED for the picky) and have to pay insurance, then they deserve a voice, until then, ignore them and tell them to use the cycle lanes we have built for them.

GET IN TOUCH...

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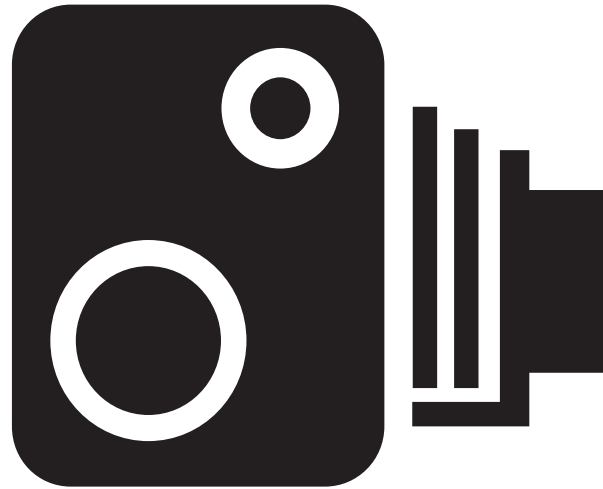


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yourcompetition



WIN! a slow cooker and hamper

AS British summer time comes to an end and the temperature plummets, it seems that the only perk we have to look forward to is

an extra hour in bed.

In a bid to help banish these winter blues, Maille, France's leading mustard producer, and quality cookware specialists – Cuisinart, have teamed

up to offer Yourlocal readers a delicious treat to brighten up those gloomy evenings.

One lucky reader has the chance to win a premium 6.5 Litre Cuisinart Cook & Hold Slow Cooker and a luxury hamper, which includes the complete range of Maille mustards and sauces. Three runners up will also win a Maille hamper packed full of fantastic goodies.

Cuisinart Cook & Hold Slow Cookers, which have a five year guarantee, are perfect for making a variety of delicious winter warmer meals such as stews and pot roasts. Prepare your main dish in the morning and return home from a hard day's work to a delicious meal. What's more, winning readers can have fun with the entire Maille range whatever they may be cooking – just a few spoons of Maille Dijon Mustard really adds a fantastic depth of flavour to many dishes and recipes.

To enter, simply answer the question below and send your entry on a postcard along with your email address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to Cuisinart Competition, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR. The closing date is October 10, 2009.

Question: Who is France's leading mustard producer?

No purchase necessary. For our full terms and conditions see www.kentnews.co.uk, or call 01303 817073.

If you do not wish to receive any literature please write 'no literature' on your entry.



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yourletters



LETTERS: Please send your letters in to us at Yourmaidstone, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR



TEXT: Why not text your view/letter/comment for Yourmaidstone to 81800 text MAID followed by a space your name and your view/letter/comment. Messages cost 25p plus standard network charges. Service provided by g8wave London N7.



EMAIL: Email us your letters to us at yourmaidstone@kosmedia.co.uk

TALK TIME

PCSO MATT WILLIAMS

Police Community Support Officer for the South ward area of Tovil talks about his role and the issues facing the community he serves.



Can you tell us what your role involves?

I provide high visibility in my area, as well as inspiring public confidence in the police.

By engaging with residents, I help to solve the issues that concern them through working with agencies such as Neighbourhood Watch and the local council to enforce law and order in the community.

What are the main issues raised by residents and how do you plan to address these?

Individuals driving mini-motorcycles are a nuisance. Anti-social behaviour and other low-level crime, such as illegal parking are also issues raised by residents and my colleagues and I liaise with them on anti-social behaviour.

I give them my contact details, so if there is a problem, I can be contacted and arrive on the scene quickly.

I have been dealing with the parking issues by consulting local businesses who are victims of this, such as local banks and shops.

Nuisance motorbikes have also been a problem and we warn those involved and seize their bikes and have them impounded if they continue to ignore the warnings.

How can residents get in touch with you?

Residents can reach me by email at maidstone.urban.neighbourhood@kent.pnn.police.uk, or my mobile number 07772 226173.

I regularly do drop-in sessions, where residents can come in and talk to me about issues they may have.

The next Partners And Communities Together (PACT) meeting is on Monday, October 5, from 7.15pm to 9.30pm at St Stevens School on Church Road.

YOUR LETTERS

£7.8m path lab will save lives, say hospital chiefs



Ripping off our NHS is as low as it gets

I was appalled to read about people using fake banknotes at a charity fete raising funds for Maidstone Hospital in last week's paper.

This begs the question... how low can people stoop?

I understand we are in the grip of the worst recession in decades thanks to the bungling efforts of Gordon Brown and his cronies.

Money is tight and with people being made redundant and unable to find jobs, families are struggling to pay their bills.

But why would anyone try to use snide notes at a fund-raiser for our hospital?

Despite its faults the NHS is one of the few things we can all fall back on in difficult times while not having to worry about money.

So let's not abuse that by depriving it of much-needed cash to improve its services.

I hope the idiots who used the dodgy notes feel so ashamed that they send a donation of real money to the hospital's league of friends.

Paul Dodd, from Maidstone, by email



COMMENT ONLINE TOO

NOT only can you use email and letters to respond to our stories, don't forget you can comment via our website too.

Beneath most stories on the www.yourmaidstone.co.uk website there is the facility to leave your comments on whatever YOU thought of the online article. To leave your remarks, simply click on the 'Add your comments' link and tell us what you think. And remember, www.yourmaidstone.co.uk is updated daily, bringing you the latest, breaking news from across Maidstone as well as our villages. We will include the best on these pages too - ensuring your comments reach the widest possible audience.

In addition, if you find your newsagent, supermarket or petrol station runs out of Yourmaidstone before you've picked up your copy, you never need to miss out. On www.yourmaidstone.co.uk you can access, for free, the full newspaper in our highly acclaimed e-editions.

Save public sector jobs, don't cut them

Maidstone Green Party has called for the council workforce numbers to be maintained and for investment in green collar jobs after figures revealed that

Frontline services safe, but £1.2m must be trimmed

RESIDENTS will be asked which services they want to save or cut. A staffing review is under way and Cllr Garland said £700,000 could be saved through not replacing employees who have left, and merging departments with other direct councils. The council already shares an

unemployment in Maidstone has more than doubled in the past 12 months.

Unemployment has increased by 111 per cent from 1,170 in September 2008 to 2,465 in September 2009.

The number of jobless people across the country has reached a 14-year high.

Here in Maidstone, 2,465 people are trying and failing to find jobs, more than double the number this time last year.

Such a dramatic increase in local levels of unemployment is a devastating blow for the borough.

The council has a large role to play in creating new jobs and retaining old ones.

We are urging the Conservative administration not to make more cuts during the recession, but to use its reserves to sustain the workforce numbers during the next 12 months.

We are also calling for reserves to be used to invest in green collar jobs across the borough, such as a free home insulation scheme, which would reduce household bills and save carbon.

While the roots of many of the problems we face are national - if not international - local action can make a real difference.

Stuart Jeffrey, Green Party parliamentary candidate for Maidstone and Weald, by email.

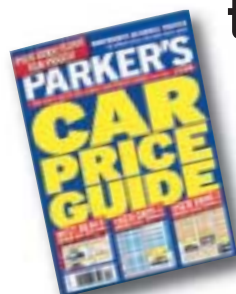
Time powers that be gave something back

The BBC is like Woolworths. Forgettable in large parts and like other aged institutions it has lost touch with reality, cushioned as it is by public finance.

Woolworths was missed for sentimental reasons but replaced

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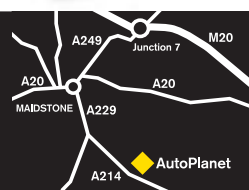
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in many places by popular 99p shops. Customers of discounters have to be discerning, but generally most benefit from 99p stores, whereas Woolworths stock failed to excite.

The whole government paraphernalia, including the BBC, fails to contribute to the nation in today's harsh climate; they must give back when our need is greater than theirs.

Dr Hazel Dawe, chair of Kent Green Party, makes valid points, (better, cheaper train services are required), which may not be Jeremy Clarkson's supporters' views, or those who see no value in non-polluting alternative energy.

The Liberal Democrat Blogger in last week's paper says everyone needs to reduce energy consumption.

We should boycott major polluters. Why trade with China and others who will not do their bit?

At home let's simplify life and get rid of Affluenza, the disease contaminating our society that makes us spend on what we do not need.

The category to dispose of first is those double-standard preachers, press offices of government and local government, the Audit Commission and National Audit Office.

Rita Grootendorst, affordable living campaigner from Sidcup, by email.

Thanks for Great North Run donations

I would like to thank our runners for taking part in this year's Great North Run and to all your readers who supported them.

The event was a great success with thousands of pounds raised for World Cancer Research Fund's (WCRF's) research and education programmes into the link between lifestyle and cancer.

You can still sponsor our runners at www.wcrf-uk.org/sponsor or call 020 7343 4205.

Natalie Tarrant, events manager for World Cancer Research Fund, by email.

Pyjama party to raise Children's Trust funds

I would like to advise your readers that a special charity week will be taking place in October, in aid of The Children's Trust.

Humphrey's Pyjama Week, now in its 2nd year, is taking place from October 12 to 16.

Nurseries, pre-school groups and primary schools are invited to take part in this annual charity event.

Toddlers will be encouraged to put on their favourite sleepwear for just one day at nursery or school and make a £2 donation for charity.

Money from the week's event will benefit The Children's Trust, a national charity, which provides care, education and therapy for children with multiple disabilities and complex health needs, and rehabilitation services to children with an acquired brain injury.

All children, who take part in a will receive a commemorative sticker and certificate.

Register on-line at www.thechildrenstrust.org.uk/humphrey

For further details email: humphrey@thechildrenstrust.org.uk or telephone 01737 365019.

Thank you.

Gail Porter, vice-president of The Children's Trust, by email.



RJ DAY: Gail Porter and Humphrey

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The 17th Tenterden Folk Festival takes place this weekend with something to entertain everyone

FROM Morris dance to the music of the Appalachian Mountains, there is plenty going on at the Tenterden Folk Festival.

Now in its 17th year, the festival offers a busy programme of concerts, workshops, dance displays and fairs which are sure to keep folk fans of all ages entertained.

The public events get under way on Friday night with an English barn dance in the Moulton Hall, with music from Geckoes, pictured below inset, and the festival continues with

a tempting array of activities and entertainment.

Visitors can even enjoy performances on the move as dance sides, musicians and singers visit the Kent & East Sussex Railway.

This year's highlights include two special shows featuring regional folk songs and music.

The music of Kent is celebrated on Saturday in Oyster Girls and Hovelling Boys, which features performances by local musicians such as Brian Peters, main picture below, Marian Button, Pete Castle, Bob Kenward and Roger Resch, Dave Mason, The Millen Family and Andy

Turner. The show is named after a recently released CD, the third volume in a series of albums of songs from the county.

During the show, the audience will hear unaccompanied ballads, songs sung with a guitar or accordion accompaniment, a Kentish poem and tunes on the concertina.

Although many of the acts are well-known names on the local folk scene, the audience will also meet Dave Mason, a young poet from Tenterden who wrote The Kentish Woman's Way. There will also be a performance by Betherden farming clan The Millen Family, who still cherish a long-standing singing tradition.

At the end of the show, which takes place in the Saddlery at the side of the White Lion at 6pm, all the artists will join in a rendition of The Whitstable May Song.

The second special concert will be held in the Evans Bar of the Tenterden Club at 1.30pm on Sunday, when Wiltshire songs will be performed in Sing the Year Round.

Tinkers Bag will be providing the entertainment, singing the songs that have been enjoyed at concerts and folk clubs in Wiltshire and beyond.

With their vast array of instruments, from melodeons and bouzouki to kazoo and the shaky egg, the group of friends draw on their established repertoire and also present some brand new songs.

These are just a few of the numerous concerts and events on offer, so pick up a programme or visit the website at www.tenterdenfolkfestival.org.uk to browse the full festival listings.

TENTERDEN FOLK FESTIVAL

Friday, October 2 to Sunday, October 4



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JOE PASQUALE



Thursday, October 1
Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells

SINCE winning the crown and the hearts of the nation in *I'm A Celebrity*... five years ago, Joe Pasquale has hardly stopped.

The Kent-based comedian has enjoyed a variety of hair-raising adventures, from entertaining the troops in Basra to boxing in a Costa Rican prison. He braved the water, mud and formidable obstacles to take part in a celebrity version of *Total Wipeout*, travelling all the way to Buenos Aires to compete against professional athletes like Sally Gunnell and Fatima Whitbread.

He has continued to delight comedy fans on television and in live venues with his own brand of ridiculous humour, while winning even more fans in his role of presenter on game show, *The Price Is Right*. Pasquale has also ventured beyond the small screen to provide the voice of Claudius the mouse in *Garfield: A Tale of Two Kitties* and the dentist of *Whoville in Horton Hears a Who!*, the hit film starring Jim Carrey and Steve Carrell.

The show starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £17.50/£15. Book online at www.assembly-halltheatre.co.uk or call the box office on 01892 530613/532072.



EILEN JEWELL

Monday, October 5
The Loft, Maidstone



ANOTHER exciting American artist makes their Maidstone debut next week, courtesy of Maverick.

The live showcases continue to attract some of the biggest names in folk, rock, country, Americana and roots music. Eilen Jewell is a Boston-based artist whose first two albums soon established her as one of the rising stars of a new generation of roots musicians.

With her third album, *Sea of Tears*, her elegant songwriting has encapsulated the sounds of vintage R&B, Midwestern garage rock, Chicago blues and early rock and rockabilly. These diverse influences have not excluded the haunting, folk-inspired purity that has made her an artist to watch ever since her debut release in 2006.



California singer-songwriter Lisa O'Kane will also be appearing, performing the candid songs that explore her life, heart and inner soul. Renowned for her emotionally honest performances, she wrote her third album, *It*

Don't Hurt, while her personal life was in turmoil and her connection to the songs is evident when she sings.

The concert starts at 7.45pm and tickets cost £12 in advance on 01622 744481 or £14 on the door.

SONIC BOOM SIX

Tuesday, October 6
The Forum, Tunbridge Wells



FIND out why Sonic Boom Six has been earning rave reviews when the Manchester band visits Kent.

After a busy summer rocking the crowds at high profile festivals such as Reading and Leeds, Summer Sundae and Kent's own Hevy Music Festival, the band has embarked on a national tour to promote their new single, *Back 2 Skool*. Following the rock radio success of *The Concrete We're Trapped Within (It's Yours)* – the first track to be released from their second album, *City of Thieves* – the band is sure to win more fans with their distinctive mix of great guitar riffs and dance sensibilities.

Rock music critics have been praising the new album, with *Kerrang!* describing it as 'street-level vignettes and snapshots of modern Britain' and 'utterly infectious fare'.

The concert starts at 7pm and tickets cost £6. The band is hitting the road with *The Skints*, a hot new signing to Sonic Boom Six's own Rebel Alliance Recordings label. This means that audiences can hear two exciting bands in one evening, so go online at www.sonicboomsix.co.uk to find out more.



MAIDSTONE LEISURE

Lyricists should tune in to this competition

ASPIRING songwriters could win a Gibson Les Paul guitar by giving their take on a number one hit.

Simply re-write the lyrics to Natasha Bedingfield's *These Words* to be in with a chance of winning the guitar, a VIP tour of the Gibson showroom in London and four tickets to the British Music Experience at the O2. Competition closes November 13. Enter at www.puresolo.com/soundsurf09.

The Three Musketeers come to life in show

PARODY and puppetry abound in a sparkling production of *Les Trois Mousquetaires*.

Théâtre Sans Frontières present a show full of delightful song and sharp humour as they tell the story of D'Artagnan. The show can be seen at the Hazlitt Theatre in Maidstone at 7.30pm tonight. Tickets cost £12/£10. Book on 01622 758611 or at www.hazlittartscentre.co.uk.

Pianist will jazz up events in Maidstone

AWARD-WINNING young pianist Kit Downes will be playing dynamic tunes when his trio visits Maidstone this weekend.

The winner of the BBC Rising Star Jazz Award, Downes will be performing with bassist Calum Gourlay and drummer James Maddren at *Pizza Express* at 7pm on Saturday. Tickets cost £12. Book at www.pizzaexpresslive.com.

Exchange a laugh or two at comedy night

RIBS will be tickled at Maidstone's Exchange Studio when three great acts appear at the Comedy Club.

Canadian-born Jason John Whitehead has performed three critically-acclaimed solo shows at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. The show, for over-18s only, starts at 8pm and tickets cost £10. Book online at www.hazlittartscentre.co.uk or call the box office on 01622 758611.

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www.BroadstairsFoodFestival.org.uk

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Great carvery and puds like mum's

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The Kings Head promises at least three different types of meat with the carvery and prides itself on some of the traditional puddings like "mum used to make".

And if you are looking to eat out as a family, then you should take a look at the early doors family special, from 5pm until 7.30pm, Monday to Thursday, which competes on price with fast food restaurants. It'll be more fun for your children too.

Evening meals take place in the beautifully refurbished dining room and there is



morning coffee for passing visitors who just want to relax and have a break.

The function room is also available for private hire for any occasion and free bar billiards is available for anyone to enjoy.

Bill and Margaret also plan to have a quiz night up and running soon, as well as wireless internet access.

The Kings Head, North Street, Sutton Valence, ME17 3AP.
Telephone: 01622 843264.

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For a great main course order a 6oz sirloin steak cooked to your preference. You can choose from a selection of potatoes. This is also served with mushrooms, peas, tomato, salad and onion rings. Follow with a chocolate bomb. Telephone: 01634 576829.

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Starter: a scallop shell filled with fresh crab and avocado topped with cheddar cheese and grilled. Main course: prime Scotch fillet steak cooked in brandy, worcester sauce, mushrooms and cream. Dessert: homemade Mars bar cake. Telephone: 01227 750304.

Yoshi

Starter: black tiger prawn wrapped in pastry and deep fried, served with a sweet chilli sauce. Main: slices of honey-roasted duck, stir-fried with onions and red and yellow peppers in a homemade Thai aromatic herb sauce with abalone. Telephone: 01227 455888.

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ON GENERAL RELEASE

AWAY WE GO (15)



Sam Mendes' film paints a vivid portrait of contemporary America and its foibles, as expectant parents leave behind their blissful back-woods home for the sake of their imminent child's prospects.

ADVENTURELAND (15)



In the summer of 1987, a college graduate takes a part-time job in a theme park and sets himself up for heartbreak when he falls for a co-worker who is having a secret affair with the park's handyman.

INGLOURIOUS BASTERDS (18)



Quentin Tarantino's war opus is a blood-soaked fairytale set in Nazi-occupied France, divided into five hefty chapters. He splices genres to dizzying effect across its two-and-a-half hours.

The humble origin of a highly evolved career

■ BY SUSAN GRIFFIN

PAUL Bettany has been wowing theatre-goers and independent movie fans for years, but it took his buttock-baring turn as Chaucer in *A Knight's Tale* for Hollywood big-wigs to sit up and take notice.

He now cites roles in *The Da Vinci Code* and Oscar-winning movies *A Beautiful Mind*, where he met his wife Jennifer Connelly, and *Master And Commander* among his impressive resume. But his latest role has proved his most daunting yet.

In *Creation*, Bettany plays the revolutionary scientist Charles Darwin, author of arguably the most explosive book in history, *On the Origin of Species*.

Published 150 years ago, the book was a culmination of more than 20 years of research inspired by his travels as a young man.

In the work, he revealed a scientific explanation for the diversity of species, including the evolution of man, and forever changed the way we view our place in the world.

Creation is based upon *Annie's Box*, a book written by Darwin's great-great grandson, Randal Keynes.

In it, we see Darwin as a young and vibrant family man – albeit one whose mental and physical health gradually buckles under the weight of guilt and grief for a lost child, his beloved ten-year-old daughter, Annie.

A man torn between his love for his deeply religious wife and his own growing belief in a world where God has no place, Darwin even wrote that by effectively 'killing' God he felt like he was "confessing a murder".

So there's much to talk about as I prepare to interview the 38-year-old actor. Opening a



GHOST: Paul Bettany shadowed Charles Darwin's actual footsteps during the filming at Down House

door, I step into a grand but dimly-lit room. There is shelf upon shelf of books but no sign of Mr Bettany, so I take a seat and only then do I notice the soles of two feet hanging off the end of a line of chairs.

"Um... Paul," the PR says gently and a rather tired looking Bettany pops his head up.

It turns out Bettany is feeling rather poorly but, ever the professional, he takes his seat under the spotlight and ploughs on.

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His blue eyes may look slightly glassy but even in this exhausted state, Bettany still makes a striking figure. Tall and slim, his hair shaved for a film role but it only maximises his razor-sharp cheekbones.

"Darwin's a bit of a hero of mine. I think he was an extraordinarily brave human being," he says in quiet but well-spoken words. "I like the idea of a person who is a social conservative having this revolutionary idea."

He felt particularly close to his character while filming at Darwin's actual home, Down House in Kent: "It was beautiful. I am not particularly sentimental but I was really moved. I found it extraordinary to walk that walk where a great deal of his thinking was done. You felt a bit like a ghost for a second."

CREATION
Certificate 15



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US band set to make odd name for themselves in UK



NAME OF THE GAME: LA-based rock band Upsilon Acrux will be playing with Honey Ride Me a Goat and The Laze at the Tap 'n' Tin, Chatham, as part of the European tour

■ BY **SIMON ROBINSON**

UNWRITTEN rule of rock number 117; all instrumental bands must have an absurdly obscure name.

Notable non-lyric outfits include Ozric Tentacles, Mogwai – who took their moniker from the Cantonese for ghost or devil – and more recently 65daysofstatic.

Continuing the trend are Los Angeles rockers Upsilon Acrux, who play at the Tap 'n' Tin, Chatham, tomorrow night.

The avant-garde five-piece's Kent gig will also be their first in the UK and comes halfway through their debut European tour.

With the band rumoured to make this their first and last tour outside the US, a

TAP 'N' TIN LINE-UP

Upsilon Acrux, The Laze and Honey Ride Me a Goat

spokesman for promoter Kitchen Dweller Records urged post-punk fans to grab the opportunity to see them live.

He said: "They are one of the most creative and original of the great post-punk, avant-garde rock bands today and are regulars of the now legendary Smell venue in LA.

Legendary

"They've just released their sixth album of explosive, intense and beautiful instrumental rock on the Cuneiform record label.

"They continue to develop their uncompro-

mising sound and intense live shows with such acts as The Boredoms, Mission of Burma, The Locust, Don Caballero, Dillinger Escape Plan, Hella and Lightning Bolt.

"Don't miss this rare opportunity to see one of Upsilon Acrux's legendary live performances in the UK."

Support on the night comes from established Kent instrumentalists Honey Ride Me a Goat and Merseyside-based rockers The Laze.

A special commemorative split vinyl record, featuring Upsilon Acrux and Honey Ride Me a Goat, containing new material from both bands will be available on the night.

The first five people who send an email to mail@kitchendweller.com will also receive free tickets to the show.

Doors open at 8pm, with the first band set to take to the stage an hour later. Entry costs £3.

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SUMMER SOUNDS: The best of Antfest 2009, at The Command House, Chatham



HEAVYWEIGHTS: Rockers 3dbs Down play at The Beacon Court, Gillingham



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- 1 Neonhalo – 10/10 The Oast House, Rainham
- 2 Shychlo And The Boys – 24/10 Canterbury, Tales Gillingham
- 3 CWB – 25/10 The World Bar, Margate
- 4 Backburner – 30/10 The Dublin Man O'War, Dover
- 5 The Suspects – 30/10 The Britannia, Margate

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A YOUNG girl must face up to a terrifying apparition in the magical children's book, *Sylvie and the Songman*.

Written by Kent author Tim Binding, the story is an exciting adventure that will captivate readers aged from nine to 14. Released in hardback last year, the beautifully illustrated novel will be available in paperback from tomorrow.

Sylvie and the Songman is published by Corgi Children's and priced at £6.99.

Ozzy Osbourne will be rocking Bluewater

THE Prince of Darkness visits Bluewater this weekend to sign copies of his new autobiography, *I Am Ozzy*.

An unmistakable rock star and television personality, Ozzy Osbourne has lived an extraordinary life and his story should make remarkable reading. He will be making an appearance at Waterstone's at 1pm on Saturday.

I Am Ozzy, priced at £20, is published by Sphere on tomorrow. For more details about the event call 01322 624831.

Wine master class will be a grape evening

WINE enthusiasts can enjoy some top tipplers at a sparkling wine master class in Tunbridge Wells.

Hosted by Spanish sparkling winemaker Codorníu, the event will be led by flamboyant TV wine expert, Joe Wadsack. Participants can taste seven Codorníu products and also learn more about the heritage and qualities of sparkling wine. The event takes place at the Hotel du Vin in Tunbridge Wells on Friday, October 16. To book call 01892 500265.

Get to the core of Kent's apple history

KENT'S heritage as a fruit-growing county is celebrated with a new updated trail guide, *Apple Source*.

Created by Produced in Kent, the free, fold-out guide includes lots of information about the Garden of England's apple-growing history and takes the reader on a three-mile circular walk from Chilham.

The free guide is available at tourist information centres across Kent and can be downloaded online at www.producedinkent.co.uk.

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YOUR TV REVIEW

■ BY TOM BETTS

HOLE IN THE WALL BBC1, 5.45pm, Saturday

I COULDN'T quite believe my ears when I heard that Hole in the Wall was returning to our screens for another run.

I'll always remember where I was when I heard the news, just like some people can remember where they were when they heard JFK had been shot.

Yes, I was at home watching telly, wondering how we arrived at this point.

To sum up, HITW is a show so dumb that it gives dumbing down a bad name.

Teams of celebrity non-entities clad themselves in silver skin-tight Lycra suits and stupid coloured bicycle helmets and try to adopt a shape that has been cut out of a giant wall as it approaches them.

If they succeed in forming the shape the wall passes over them to much cheering and whooping, but if they fail they are knocked into a pool of water, to even more whooping and cheering from the audience.

Yes, it's really that stupid and juvenile and the attire leaves little to the imagination.

Why this stupid nonsense has been recommissioned is a mystery to me and someone at the BBC should be fayed in public.

Granted, it's only supposed to be a bit of light fun, but the contestants seem to take it all far too seriously.

They come across as desperate losers who will gladly humiliate themselves if it means appearing on telly to boost their profile in some small way.

Former host Dale Winton has departed and been replaced by Strictly Come Dancing star, and previous series team captain, Anton du Beke, who has the charisma of a bluebottle.



FILLING A GAP: Former team captain Anton Du Beke takes over as host of Hole in the Wall

The change is the TV equivalent of swapping a reliable Vauxhall Vectra for a Skoda but Anton looks happy enough to escape wearing the silver suit on a weekly basis and bounces around the set like a village idiot.

If the punishment for failure was more exciting than simply seeing someone toppled into a glorified swimming pool, this would be much more entertaining.

In my dreams the whooping and cheering on Extreme Hole in the Wall would be justified.

Joe Swash's failure to complete a wall would result with him being plunged into a vat of boiling acid, while Vanessa Feltz's misery would be compounded with being knocked into a snake pit filled with king cobras.

Sadly though, that could be a wall too far for Saturday tea time, and that is a real shame.

YOUR WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

BY RUSSELL GRANT



AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19)
GETTING in shape should be your first order of business this week. If you look good physically it will give you the confidence to make your move. If you are single, you'll soon find a lover once you shed those extra pounds. Fortunately, your willpower is at an all-time high.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aquarius** 09067-531762



TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21)
BE direct with the object of your affection. Playing cat and mouse games will just annoy them. Fortunately, you've got plenty of sex appeal and will have no trouble catching their eye. If you're in a relationship, you have an opportunity to rekindle the passion that first drew you together.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Taurus** 09067-531753



LEO (Jul 24-Aug 23)
KEEP your career plans secret. A high paying job is about to open, and it could be tailor-made for you. The fewer people who know about this opportunity the easier it will be for you to get it. Don't be afraid to press your case for a higher salary than you are initially offered.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Leo** 09067-531756



SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22)
A DESIRE for travel could prompt you to step out of your comfort zone. Fortunately, a friend is happy to tag along on this journey. Although this trip will be enjoyable, you will have to be tough every once in a while. Being an outsider is never easy.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Scorpio** 09067-531759



PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20)
YOUR power packed sex drive prompts you to go for gold and try to net someone sexy. The quickest way into their heart is through their mind. Find out what their hobbies are. Read their favourite books and watch their top films. Take up a sport or activity they enjoy.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Pisces** 09067-531763



GEMINI (May 22-Jun 21)
A MONEYMAKING opportunity should prompt you into action. The competition will be fierce, but you will emerge as the top candidate. That's because you've got a complex calculating mind. You can process information and come up with analysis that puts everyone to shame.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Gemini** 09067-531754



VIRGO (Aug 24-Sep 23)
IT'S easy to win people to your side, thanks to your winning personality. Making changes to an outmoded system is possible, thanks to your ability to rally the troops. Approach the person in charge with humour. If they feel like they're being attacked they'll dig their heels in big time.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Virgo** 09067-531757



SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21)
DON'T be bashful about your passion for a certain subject. Some may accuse you of being a geek, and maybe they're right, but there are worse things to be. Discussing your obsession may encourage others to admit their fascination with the same subject.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Sagittarius** 09067-531760



ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20)
REARRANGING your domestic schedule will make you more productive in every way. Recently, you've taken charge of everything, mostly because you work fast and don't dilly dally. Be brave and delegate duties to relatives and roommates. Don't fret over the cost.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aries** 09067-531752



CANCER (Jun 23-Jul 23)
NORMALLY you think twice about plunging into new situations, but now you won't be able to stop yourself. Follow your impulses, no matter where they lead. If you lock eyes with someone sexy, be sure to ask for a date. The two of you will form an immediate connection.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Cancer** 09067-531755



LIBRA (Sep 24-Oct 23)
YOU have to be very sneaky about your career ambitions. A high-powered position is opening up, but if people think you are a contender they'll try to undermine your confidence. Be gentle as a dove and wise as a serpent. Gather as much information as you can about the job.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Libra** 09067-531758



CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20)
YOU will be the one who has to make the first move in a relationship. The object of your affection is too shy to approach you. Fortunately, you won't have much trouble striking up a conversation. The two of you have many interests in common, as well as similar ethics.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Capricorn** 09067-531761

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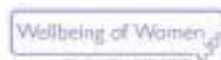
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	2		9			3	
	8	6	4		2	9	5
	9			8	4		
			2				3
4	3					1	6
6					7	8	

MEDIUM

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				9		3	8	
					2	8		4
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HARD

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	8						1	
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7	5				6	4		

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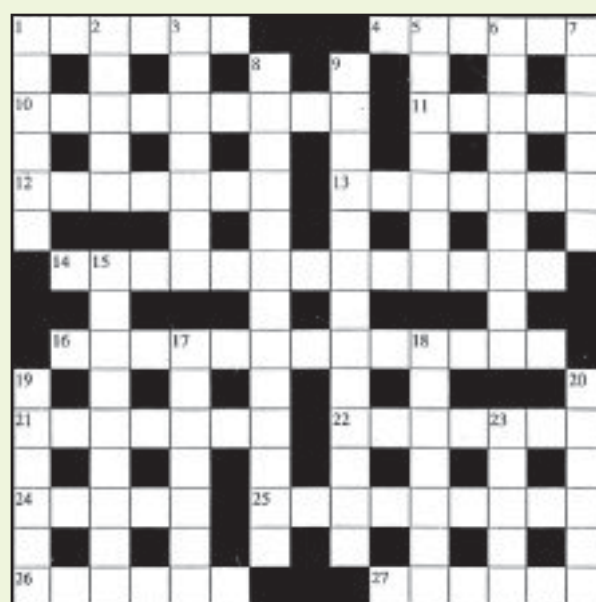
ACROSS

- 1 Distant gambling game played very loudly (3-3)
- 4 Commander takes director to port in Morocco (6)
- 10 Preserve indeed found in lake in Wales, it's a spicy dish (9)
- 11 Outsize vehicle's statuette (5)
- 12 One came from in France inside to world of scholars (7)
- 13 Again adjust one's sight and force US into manoeuvres (7)
- 14 Successful sowers hope to do this eventually (4,3,6)
- 16 Sudden fall of rain (1,3)
- 21 Gold fish first, it is flat on top (7)
- 22 Book I study of law first (7)
- 24 Glacial ridge in The Skerries (5)
- 25 Current father? (9)
- 26 Beating concealment (6)
- 27 Pope troubled by the French (6)

DOWN

- 1 Islander naïf about jibe, not half included (6)
- 2 One of two bachelors leaving cake for dance (5)
- 3 A bursting into flames during outbreak of violence (5-2)
- 5 Quite a number with virtuous fellow we brought up (4,3)
- 6 Goods badly cracked on the turn (4-5)
- 7 Most unusual Sartre novel (6)
- 8 Commit oneself to dive (4,3,6)
- 9 Strange tribal reaction to military bluster (5-8)
- 15 Listener noticed that it had been put on one side (9)
- 17 Band opposing Ronald, revolutionary leader (7)
- 18 Nails, say, for nothing without VAT? (3-4)
- 19 Address for delivery (6)
- 20 Wrong amount ruefully included (6)
- 23 Upset, having got the chop? (3-2)

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QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

- 1 Tull, English agriculturist (6)
- 4 and Hyde (6)
- 10 Musical note (9)
- 11 Anaesthetic (5)
- 12 In place (anag.) (7)
- 13 In progress (2,5)
- 14 Echidna (5,8)
- 16 Set in one's ways (4-2-3-4)
- 21 Soulful person (7)
- 22 Old-fashioned (7)
- 24 Garishness (5)
- 25 Overtax one's strength (9)
- 26 Oil-carrying vessel (6)
- 27 African fly (6)

DOWN

- 1 Hebrew patriarch (6)
- 2 Sri Lankan language (5)
- 3 Cross the (7)
- 5 Agamemnon's daughter (7)
- 6 Sailors' chant (2-5-2)
- 7 Ruling (anag.) (6)
- 8 Rebirth (1,3)
- 9 State of exalted happiness (7,6)
- 15 Doctor (9)
- 17 Fine rain (7)
- 18 Give evidence (7)
- 19 Meatball (6)
- 20 Water heater (6)
- 23 Pursuit (5)

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6	3	2	7	8	9	5	1	4
4	9	1	8	5	2	8	3	7
8	5	7	1	4	3	2	9	6
9	2	6	8	1	7	3	4	5
5	1	4	9	3	6	7	8	2
3	7	8	4	2	5	9	6	1
2	6	5	3	9	1	4	7	8
7	8	9	2	6	4	1	5	3
1	4	3	5	7	8	6	2	9

MEDIUM

1	9	8	7	2	6	4	3	5
2	7	6	5	4	3	8	1	9
3	5	4	9	8	1	7	2	6
9	8	7	1	3	4	6	5	2
5	1	3	6	7	2	9	8	4
4	6	2	8	5	9	1	7	3
6	3	9	2	1	8	5	4	7
7	2	1	4	9	6	3	5	8
8	4	5	3	6	7	2	9	1

HARD

4	3	2	6	8	9	5	1	7
6	1	9	3	7	5	2	8	4
5	7	8	1	2	4	9	3	6
3	2	5	9	6	7	8	4	1
8	6	1	5	4	3	7	2	9
7	9	4	2	1	8	3	6	5
9	5	6	8	3	1	4	7	2
1	8	7	4	5	2	6	9	3
2	4	3	7	9	6	1	5	8

CRYPTIC SOLUTION No106

ACROSS: 8 Inflexion 9 Leave 10 Clip-joint
11 Gismo 12 Copper-bottomed 15 Afar
17 Tasty 19 Scan 21 Royal enclosure 23
Ashet 24 Breakdown 26 Canoe 27
Charwoman. **DOWN:** 1 En bloc 2 Flypaper
3 Exponent 4 Coin 5 Flighty 6 Balsamic
7 Recording 13 Basic 14 Matriarch 16
Anything 18 Yeomanry 19 Squadron 20
Blitzed 22 Enwrap 25 Ruhr.

QUICK SOLUTION No107

ACROSS: 1 Jetlino 4 Jekyll 10 Semibreve
11 Ether 12 Pelican 13 En train 14 Spiny
antelope 16 Dyed-in-the-wool 21 Amnist
27 Tectse. **DOWN:** 1 Joseph 2
Tamil 3 Rubicon 5 Electra 6 Yo-heave-ho 7
Luning 8 Reinforcement 9 Seventh heaven
15 Physician 17 Dhtzle 18 Witless 19
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Answers to all of this week's quizzes can be found on our website



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No time to sleep when in Seattle

■ BY TOM MORGAN

SEATTLE, it is said, is a city where salmon swim upstream in the middle of town and bald eagles share the sky with aeroplanes.

Our whistle-stop tour of the entire state began in the city, whose defining landmark – despite the tourist information pack's vision of spawning fish and rare birds of prey – is probably the Space Needle building, which dwarfs all that it surrounds.

However, it's the 100-year-old Pike Place Market, a bustling food centre near the city's harbour, that gives the region its lifeblood.

Bustling food stalls are often the most photogenic of settings, but this one is an assault on the senses, with vivid colours, eardrum-bursting shrieks from market traders and smells that linger across the city. From elite restaurants frequented by Hollywood star Robin Williams to market stalls lined with bargains, it is a veritable feast for even the most demanding foodie.

Even when you leave the city, you needn't look far for your next bite. Surrounded by a fishing harbour and vast fertile countryside within an hour's drive, it is not hard to see how Pike Place became a success.

Located in the Pacific Northwest, Seattle is surrounded on all sides by the windswept waters of Puget Sound.

Touring could not be easier, with boat cruises, open-top buses and monorails among the options. A favourite, if somewhat indulgent, choice is a short sightseeing flight with Kenmore Air (www.kenmoreair.com).

The trip takes you across the surprisingly Metropolis-like city towards the sprawling millionaire waterfront pads, including Bill Gates' extravagant home.



STUNNING VIEW: From the sprawl of the city to countryside explorations, there's lots to keep you busy in Seattle

And tourists who can tear themselves away from the city are also in for a pleasant surprise. Washington State, blessed with spectacular natural assets, has added to its lure by offering an enticing combination of fine local wine and produce.

We travelled to the town of Spokane on a short internal flight and stayed in the welcoming boutique setting of Hotel Lusso. After an artery-busting breakfast on a train carriage at Frank's Diner, our escape to the countryside was welcome.

Talk to anyone in rural Washington, and they are likely to bend your ear about wine.

The region struggles to compete commercially with California, but locals are tremendously proud of their vineyards, which have nearly

doubled in size in the past five years.

Tasting trips can take you to Richland and Walla Walla, where you will drink more than enough to make you an overnight connoisseur.

After the fine wines and fresh local produce, including spectacular cheeses, you will be more than ready for a little exercise.

Our solution was to take to the water in kayaks. The instructor from Spokane's Parks and Recreation (tel: +001 509 625 6200) who guided us through the idyllic Little Spokane River, was as calm as the tranquil waters we followed downstream.

With the sun beating down on us, we barely realised we had passed an entire afternoon as we paddled our way through the region's rich, lush grassland.

FACT FILE: WASHINGTON STATE

Time difference	- 8 hours (GMT)
Capital	Olympia
Language	English
Population	About 6.6 million
Currency	£1 = approx US \$1.6
Religion	Christian
Largest city	Seattle

Travel facts

• Tom Morgan was a guest of Seattle and Washington State Tourism, and flew with KLM from London. KLM flies daily ex-Heathrow to Seattle from £419 return. KLM reservations: 0871 222 7474 and www.klm.com.

• Tour operators to the region include Bon Voyage, which offers ten-night fly-drives from £629 for October 2009-May 2010 departures, including flights and car hire.

Bon Voyage reservations: 0800 316 0191

America As You Like It offers seven nights in Seattle and Washington State from £870 (two sharing), incl flights and car hire.

As You Like It reservations: 020 8742 8299 and www.americaasyoulikeit.com.

• For Seattle & Washington State enquiries call 020 7978 5233 or visit www.visitseattle.org or www.experiencewa.com.



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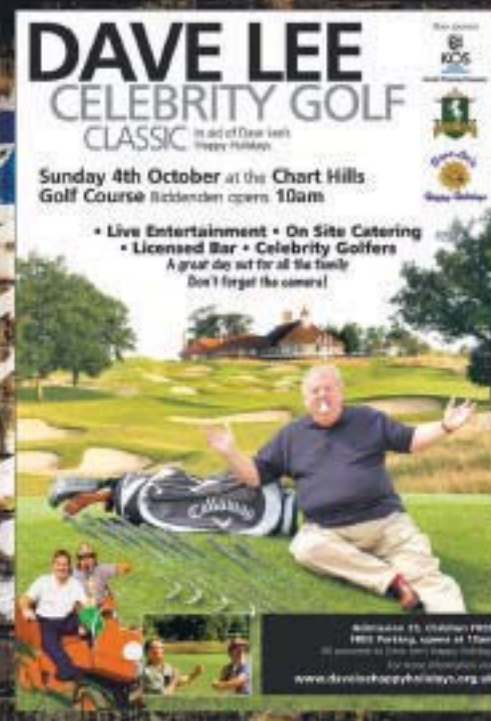
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WOMEN seeking men

MY EVERYTHING

Ashford based, bubbly and fun single mum, 23yr old, curvy build, brunette. I like reading and socialising. WLTm like minded male. Box 457472 ❶

MATCH OF THE DAY!

Fun-to-be-with, blonde female, 25, 5ft2, a woman who loves football! Enjoys going out and staying in, looking for a like-minded man, to be her soulmate. Box 446494 ❶

NOT YOUR

BROWN-EYED GIRL, BUT...
Blue-eyed brunette, 27, 5ft1, loves films, walks, darts, pool, singing, me time! Looking for honest guy with GSOH, to get to know. Box 880105 ❶ ❷

IS ANYONE OUT THERE?

41yr old easygoing, independent female, WLTm cuddly fella to enjoy the finer things in life with, leading to LTR with the right person. Box 879931 ❶ ❷

GIVE AND TAKE IN LOVE

Loving loyal female, 30, blue eyes, brown hair, seeking LTR with male 30-35, 6ft+, no baggage, in the Maidstone area. Box 448471 ❶

HOISTES FOR COURSES...

Caring, loving, affectionate female, 30, 5'2", blonde, likes walking, horse riding, animals, seeks affectionate male, 30-40, for lasting, loving relationship. Box 384013 ❶

GOOD LUCK CHARM

Sporty female, 34, 5ft2, likes the gym, beach walks, Tennis and cycling, WLTm similar male in his 30s for friendship in Eastbourne. Box 453712 ❶

A FAIRYTALE ENDING!

Princess Fiona, 34, looking to meet her Shrek. 5ft8, short brown/blonde hair, blue eyes, large build, seeks romantic caring guy for friendship, maybe more! Box 877957 ❶ ❷

HAPPY DAYS!

Attractive, fun-loving female, 31, 5'4", size 12, dark hair with blonde highlights, tactile, WLTm intelligent, professional, attractive guy, for a happy relationship. Tunbridge Wells. Box 308734 ❶ ❷

FEAST YOUR EYES ON ME...

Hello I'm Andrea, 35, petite 5ft3, shoulder length curly hair. I enjoy eating out, cinema and I'm looking for friendship and possible long term relationship Box 453039 ❶

SOUND GOOD?

Hello I'm 35, kind, caring and non-smoking, enjoying cooking, cinema, music, dining in and out, looking for that special someone to enjoy a relationship with. Box 447695 ❶

SEALED WITH A KISS

Petite lady, 36, long hair, blue eyes, single mum, enjoys holidays, winning and dining, laughing, seeks loyal, loving man for friendship and more. Box 453079 ❶

STARRY NIGHTS

Hello I'm Sarah, single mum from Kent, brown hair enjoy swimming nights in/out looking for a caring man to share the best thing in life. Box 878378 ❶

HISTORIC MEETING?

Mum of three, 36, long mousey hair, blue eyes, interested in historical places, music, eating out, seeks kind, caring, genuine male 36-49, non-smoker, for LTR. Box 440693 ❶

SOMETHING LASTING

Professional single mum, 37, own home, looking for a man for friendship, hopefully a permanent relationship. Hailsham Box 455221 ❶

BE MINE

Honest and caring woman, 36, 5ft5, slim build, blue eyes, I'm caring, honest and have 4 children. I enjoy drives and horse riding. Maidstone. Box 456159 ❶

WAITING FOR YOU

Curvy single mum, 38, 5ft7, romantic, loyal, loving and genuine, likes swimming, theatre, live meals, dining out, seeking a LTR with a like-minded male. Rochester Box 458866 ❶

CALL ME

Happy but shy girl of 37, loves all the normal things in life, seeks a mature guy, hoping for something lasting and meaningful. Bexhill-on-Sea. Box 452424 ❶

SEIZE THE DAY

Loving female, 36, 5ft4, brown hair, green eyes, likes socialising, staying in, seeks genuine male for friendship and more. Box 428666 ❶

LOVE TO LOVE YOU

Lovely female, 36, 5ft4, medium/large build, blonde hair, blue eyes, own house, loves walking, going out, the usual! Seeking male for long-term/serious relationship. Box 438102 ❶ ❷

MEND A BROKEN HEART

Single mum, 37, fun-loving, been hurt in past, looking for nice, genuine guy for hopeful happiness - no time wasters! Box 908053 ❶ ❷



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BLONDE AMBITION

Bubbly, cuddly, blonde single mum, 39, 5ft6, likes cars, reading, pubs, cosy nights in, having a laugh, looking for that right male for LTR. Box 905614 ❶ ❷

CUTE AS CAN BE

Cute single mum of four, 38, Kent-based, into most things, looking for friendship, possibly romance. Box 897983 ❶

YOUNG-AT-HEART

Attractive 38yr old female, dark brown hair, blue eyes, curvy physique, likes days out, music, cinema, cinema, walking, cycling, seeks loving, fun male, for friendship/relationship. Box 901893 ❶ ❷

A NICE BOTTL OF WINE

Lovely, glossy brunette, 39yr old, petite, bubbly and loving, enjoys theatre, music and eating out, WLTm a professional, loving and tactile male for a relationship. Box 442551 ❶ ❷

JUST ONE QUESTION...

A warm, generous, attractive and caring lady, 40, seeks soulmate who will love, respect and cherish her. What's taking you so long? Box 873456 ❶

WANNA RIDE WITH YOU

Curvaceous lady, 40, 5ft8, long curly hair, into motorbikes!! Single mum, seeks fun-loving bike fan for rides into the sunset. Eastbourne. Box 458787 ❶

PERFECT MATCH

Hi I'm Nikki, 5ft7, brown hair, green eyes, enjoys animals especially my pets. Looking for a tall man who has a personality compatible with mine Box 453374 ❶

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BETWEEN US

Asian lady, 41, single, no ties, outgoing, fun-loving, professional, looking for white male, genuine, professional and solvent. Box 451900 ❶

FOR A RELATIONSHIP?

Shy but confident-once-known female, a mum, 40, likes socialising, tennis, walks, swimming; seeks gent with similar interests to find hopeful love with. Box 452106 ❶

RECIPE FOR ROMANCE

Single mother, recently separated, 41, 5ft9, slim, blonde/blue eyes, WLTm fun loving man with GSOH, someone honest and genuine. I love cooking, cycling, outdoors. Folkestone. Box 457913 ❶

JOINED AT THE HIP

Sociable petite girl with great SOH, 40, blonde, sociable, love football! Looking for fun guy with great SOH for inseparable partnership. Box 880434 ❶ ❷

SMILE!

Looking for a fun-loving guy for a LTR. I'm 41, works as a dental nurse, easy to get on with, always up for fun times. Sittingbourne Box 454827 ❶

BELLA ISABEL

Lovely, fun and caring brunette, 42, recently divorced, intelligent, hard working, fun-loving, WLTm a gent to socialise with. Tunbridge Wells Box 878250 ❶

HOPE TO HEAR FROM YOU

Audrey here, I live in Seaford and WLTm caring man. I'm fun loving, loyal, honest, adventurous and love animals, cooking, music, film, countryside. Box 872159 ❶

LET'S DATE!

Hard-working woman, 42, WLTm a nice and caring man to date and be happy with. Herne Bay Box 455327 ❶

LOVE IS ALL AROUND

Happy-go-lucky, bubbly Blonde, 42, blue eyes, hard-working, love outings, looking for a nice, genuine guy for relationship. Bromley Box 454517 ❶

HELLO EVERYONE!

Single divorcee, 42, fun-loving, kind and loyal, likes meals out, weekends away, country walks, WLTm a non-smoking guy to share it all with. Seaford Box 454569 ❶

ACTIVE TYPE

Lively, energetic fun loving mum, 42, 5ft3, petite, pretty, blonde/brown hair, hazel eyes, WLTm honest, fun, mixed race/black gent, for lasting relationship. Box 451819 ❶ ❷

TALL ORDER

Curvy lady, 5ft9, 43yrs old, blonde hair/green eyes. I live in Deal in Kent, I'm down-to-earth and like being out and about. Box 456020 ❶

I SHOULD BE SO LUCKY

Hello, I'm Karen, 42, dark brown hair, medium build, GSOH, looking for a man with no issues and GSOH who can enjoy life with me. Box 452204 ❶

LIVE LIFE TO THE FULL

Good-looking brunette from Kent, 43, 5ft10, likes bowling, eating in/out etc. Looking for a good-looking/guy, 35-45, with GSOH for friendship/relationship. Box 450348 ❶

SWEET AS HONEY

Petite, slim, honey-blond lady, 54" age 44, enjoys the seaside and horse-racing. Looking for a dark-haired, genuine, honest and professional man, 25-50 in Brighton. Box 458465 ❶

LOVE TO MEET YOU

Kind woman, 42, outgoing, happy-go-lucky, sometimes shy. I like gardening, socialising, travel, walks. Looking for happy, fun fella. Aylesford Box 428464 ❶

RECIPE FOR ROMANCE

GSOH, honest, romantic and reliable woman, 45, dark blonde hair/blue eyes. WLTm honest and reliable man 40-55. I like reading, cooking, walks, theatre, animals. Box 457521 ❶

STARTING OVER

Divorced 45yr old cuddly woman, brown eyes/hair, likes swimming, animals, cinema, soaps, the beach. WLTm a honest, non-smoking man for friendship, maybe more. Ashford Box 878141 ❶ ❷

COME ON DOWN!

Honest, bubbly female 45, long hair, slim, enjoys walking, cinema, socialising; seeks honest, friendly chap for friendship leading to more. Box 882693 ❶

FROM THIS MOMENT

Young-looking 46yr old female, 5ft4, slim, N/S, affectionate, loyal and caring, looking for a male, 40-45, N/S, up to 5ft9, to share life with. Ashford. Box 454591 ❶

HEART AND SOUL

Easy-going single mum, 46, 5ft4, size 12/14, likes bowling, gardening, swimming, looking for a man, 35-49, slim/medium build with similar interests. Maidstone Box 454176 ❶

FANCY A DRINK?

Hi, I'm June, 47, bubbly, loving. Looking for a trustworthy guy for a relationship. I enjoy walks, car-boots, travelling and sharing a bottle of red. Box 878294 ❶

MY PRINCE?

Not-just-for-xmas dog lover, into sports, walks, motorbikes, GSOH, female, 47, pretty, long dark hair, looking for knight in shining armour! East Sussex area. Box 872361 ❶

ARE YOU THE ONE FOR ME?

Caring, cute female, 46, petite, likes socialising, dancing, travelling, good food, seeking intelligent, loyal man 42-52 for love and TLC. Seaford. Box 444366 ❶

ETERNALLY YOURS

Easygoing woman, likes most things in life; country walks, films, cinema, cooking. I'm 46, 5ft2, medium build. WLTm genuine, happy guy, easygoing and fun. Box 445635 ❶

SAY YES!

Funny lady, 48, looking for tattooed hippy/biker/metal type to relieve the boredom. Must enjoy cat cuddling and have own chocolate because I never share! Box 878407 ❶

A BETTER TOMORROW

Young 50, slim, non-smoker, female, auburn hair. Seeking a companion to make a new start with. I'm in Dover and enjoy countryside, walks, good food/wine. Box 458847 ❶

JUST IMAGINE

Petite, brunette, bubbly, friendly, easy-going single mum, 49, enjoys cinema, eating out, socialising, most things. WLTm genuine male, to see where life takes us! Box 893562 ❶

CARING & PROFESSIONAL

Female 49, 5ft4, long hair, slim build, likes eating out, the beach, travel, seeks a friendly chap, 48-55. Hastings Box 417100 ❶

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LOVELY BUBBLY

Short 51yr old professional lady, likes history, films and reading, seeking a genuine gent, 45-58, with GSOH to enjoy evenings out, stimulating conversations and fun. Box 452311 ❶

FUNNY GIRL

Petite, blonde female, 51, GSOH, likes music, books, films, cooking, looking for romantic soulmate 45-55 for TLC. Kent. Box 835181 ❶ ❷

YOU DONT KNOW UNTIL YOU CALL...

Young-looking, hard-working 53yr old lady in East Sussex, a happy, caring person with a good sense of humour. Non-smoker. Heathfield. Box 883410 ❶

MOVING ON

Blonde, blue-eyed solvent female, 54, home/car, young-looking, enjoys travel, dining out, conversation, swimming anything social! Seeking a like-minded man for a loving relationship. Eastbourne. Box 877161 ❶

COMPANIONSHIP, LAUGHTER, HOPEFULLY MORE

Curvy & cuddly, outgoing, friendly, honest female, 53, 5ft7, larger build, fair hair, likes socialising, country walks, theatre, cinema, music, swimming, WLTm similar loving male. Box 443642 ❶

TALL & SLIM

Sociable female, 54, tall & slim, short dark hair, green eyes, love gardening, walks, reading, visiting country pubs, dining out. WLTm a like-minded gent. Box 456504 ❶

DO YOU HAVE THE BRAINS & THE LOOKS?

Professional, attractive female, 54, enjoys the countryside, gardening, keeping fit, reading and live music, looking to meet an attractive and intelligent man for a relationship. Box 448863 ❶ ❷

GREETINGS!

Canterbury Lady, 56 seeking special genuine, fun loving gent, 50-60, to enjoy life with and share interests such as walking, cinema, theatre, dining out, holidays. Box 873039 ❶

WALKS ALONG THE COAST

Honest & sincere female, 58, tall, GSOH, loves country pubs, coasts, cinema, seeking a man who's a match for me with GSOH for relationship. Box 441622 ❶

DREAMS OF YOU

Genuine, caring lady, late 50s, slim & young looking, looking for a loyal, considerate, N/S male for long term relationship. Box 448566 ❶

NEVER TOO LATE

Hello, I'm Betty, 62, cuddly widow, 5ft5, brown hair/brown eyes, GSOH and love life, seeking a like-minded gent for companionship and more. Box 452329 ❶

TIME ON MY HANDS

Hi I'm Laureen, 62, slim, 5ft2, short brown hair, never act my age! Love Motown, parks, beaches and homey life, seeks fun-loving gent. Tunbridge Wells. Box 458750 ❶

LOTS OF TLC TO GIVE

Happy-go-lucky lady, 63, 5ft3, medium build, brown hair/eyes, likes dancing, walking and holidays abroad, looking for a like-minded male for friendship, maybe a LTR. Box 452897 ❶

TALL ORDER

Attractive blonde, 60's, with a young outlook on life, slim build, likes animals, walking, meals, looking for a tall man for friendship, possible LTR. Hastings. Box 456604 ❶

Women seeking women

YOU READY FOR THIS?

Tall, blonde lady, 43, 5'7", loves rock music and her dog, looking for a fun lady who has an adventurous side. Gillingham. Box 458471 ❶

THE SWEETEST THING

Hello there, I'm Heather, 46, kind and caring, looking for a similar soulmate. Seaford Box 454133 ❶

NO SECRETS

Genuine, kind, reliable and caring lady, 46, looking for a lady who is exactly as she seems, honest and caring. Box 458390 ❶

HOPE YOU'RE OUT THERE?

Sincere female, 49, likes football, animals, country pursuits, seeks feminine woman for friendship, maybe more. Gillingham Box 456805 ❶



MEN seeking women

HAPPY CHAPPY

Hi I'm a happy-go-lucky man, 33, a plumber, enjoy life and everything in it. I'm fit and active and seeking the same in a woman. Box 452394 ❶

TABLE FOR 2?

Warm hearted and athletic looking man, 34, 5ft11, dark brown hair, brown eyes, looking for a strong friendship, possibly intimate relationship. Box 871685 ❶

LOVE ME TENDER

Fun-loving honest guy, 34, 5ft11, brown hair, seeking honest, caring female for friendship, maybe leading to honest, tender relationship. Eastbourne. Box 446200 ❶ ❷

BOTTLE OF WINE

Hi there, I'm an easygoing male, 35, 5ft9, medium build, brown hair, I'm based in Brighton and enjoy seeing friends, drinks, cinema, walks. Box 450165 ❶ ❷

SOMEONE LIKE YOU

Nice upbeat male, 37, likes horse riding, cycling, social events; seeks similar person to meet for special connection. Tunbridge Wells. Box 458732 ❶

DO I ATTRACT YOU?

Happy go lucky single dad, 40, looking for a slim female, -size 12, to share good times and happiness with. Hurlton. Box 457738 ❶

BROWN EYED MO

Love-me-mum, 40, likes playing darts, WLTm bubbly, fun to be with lady to go on dates with and get to know better. Dover Box 456129 ❶

IT'S WHAT'S INSIDE THAT COUNTS

Loving and caring male, 40, 5ft8, medium build, average looks, seeks outgoing, loving, caring person to find love with. Canterbury. Box 458290 ❶

FRIENDS FIRST

Caring, understanding chap, 40, 5ft7, blue eyes/blond hair, slim/average build. I'm easygoing and relaxed, like travel, music, film, restaurants, theatre, days out, badminton. Box 451361 ❶

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Still the nation of gazumpers

■ BY NICK AMES

A STUDY has found that gazumping continues to be a significant issue in the UK property market.

Despite the slow sales that have been such a feature of the property downturn, more than one person in 10 who responded to a question about sales being hijacked at the last minute said they had been a victim of such actions.

And more than one in five said that if the opportunity arose for them to pursue a last-minute sale at the expense of another purchaser, they would do so without taking anyone else's feelings into consideration.

Gazumping happens when someone makes an offer on a property that is agreed to, only for someone to come in at the last minute and make the purchase with a higher offer.

It works because any agreement between buyer and seller is not recognised in law until a contract has been signed.

It is the period between when an offer is made and when a contract is signed that creates room for gazumping, with the original buyer losing out if they will not beat the later offer.

The figures mean home-buyers could be forking out up to £290 million annually in pointless surveys, searches and lawyers' fees when they are gazumped at the last hurdle, according to a new study from leading independent personal finance website Fool.co.uk.



BAD NEWS DAY: Research shows that one in five of us are happy to shatter the dreams of other home-buyers

From a survey of 2,000 of its readers, Fool.co.uk – which was looking at malpractice within the industry – found that 12 per cent had been gazumped over the past year.

More startlingly, 22 per cent revealed they

would attempt to gazump a sale if they could, and the property were desirable enough, with 11 per cent describing it as a “necessary evil”.

Gazumping is especially a problem for first-time buyers, who are unlikely to have the

available capital to match a gazumping bid, especially when more than 10 per cent of the UK property market is now powered by buy-to-let operations with deeper pockets.

According to Alison Hunt at Fool.co.uk, there are some basic steps that a buyer can attempt to make to prevent gazumping:

1. Insist the property is removed from the market.
2. Sell your property before buying another.
3. Exchange contracts as quickly as possible.
4. Maintain a good relationship with the seller.
5. Work with agents on an exclusive basis.

In the meantime, buyers are warned to be aware of the risk of being gazumped, though as house prices stall, and sales volume stalls, property-buyers may be increasingly less likely to suffer from being gazumped.

David Kuo, head of personal finance at Fool.co.uk, said: “For many people, the purchase of a house will probably be the biggest single acquisition they will ever make.

“It can take months of searching to find the ideal home and anything that dashes the dream can be emotionally draining, especially if it is the result of being gazumped.

“But it's not only emotions that get hurt when you are gazumped – finances can take a battering, too.

“Consequently, it is important to minimise the chances of being gazumped, though it is not possible to eliminate the risk completely.

“It is sometimes said that gazumping is the price we pay for free-market competition.”

PROPERTY NEWS

Confidence grows as investors back property

ALMOST half of UK consumers believe that buying property is the best way to invest money.

In a study by Scottish Widows, 48 per cent of those polled said investing in property was the best way to maximise returns on hard-earned cash.

This figure is a significant increase on 12 months ago, when just 28 per cent of those surveyed cited property as the best choice of investment.

Commenting on the results, Jason Butler of Bloomsbury Financial Planning said investors should avoid “backing one horse”, adding that there was no such thing as a “best investment”.

He acknowledged that many investors “want to invest in [property] over and above other investments”.

However, he warned that investors looking to build their property portfolio should proceed with caution because the property market fluctuated depending on the borrowing options available.

Lower deposit boost for FTBs

FIRST-TIME buyers will be happy to learn that mortgage-lenders are now asking for lower deposits.

According to Mortgageforce, the average deposit required in August was 21.25 per cent – down from 25 per cent the previous month.

The move is regarded as a sign that confidence is returning after months of gloom.

Katie Tucker, Mortgageforce technical manager, said: “More generous deals are available – the ongoing stability of house prices reduces the risk of negative equity and reposessions that lenders are keen to avoid, so we should see more accommodating terms.”

However, Ms Tucker also advises borrowers to be clear about the difference between ‘discount’ and ‘tracker’ loans, explaining that discount rates do not follow the base rate.

They are instead linked to bank and building society standard variable rates, which can be changed at the lender's whim.

In related news, prospective buyers should be aware that from January next year, stamp duty will be reintroduced on properties over £125,000.

This time last year, the Government opted to increase the stamp duty threshold from £125,000 to £175,000.

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£137,500

PUBLIC NOTICE

Simon Miller & Company are now in receipt of an offer of £380,000 for Little Wrotham Cottage, Nepicar Lane, Wrotham, Kent, TN15 7RL. Anyone wishing to place an offer on this property should contact the estate agents on 01732 844111 within 7 days from the date of this notice.

Enquire West Malling

Lenham



- Stunning Detached Home
- Close To Village Centre
- Electronic Gated Parking

Enquire Lenham

£425,000

Headcorn



- Stunning 4 Bedroom Home
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Enquire Headcorn

£299,995

Boughton Monchelsea



- 3 Bed End of Terrace
- Own Driveway & Garage
- Double Glazed Conservatory

Enquire Maidstone

£190,000 - £200,000

Ditton



- 3 Bedroom Semi Detached
- Substantial Rear Gardens
- Driveway To Front

Enquire Larkfield

£172,995

Wateringbury



- Two Bedroom Period Cottage
- Semi Rural Location
- Vacant Possession

Enquire West Malling

£189,995

Larkfield



- 2 Bedroom Chalet Bungalow
- 3 Good Sized Receptions
- Garage And Off-Road Parking

Enquire Larkfield

£255,000

West Malling



- 3 Bedroom Extended Property
- Own Driveway And Garage
- Offered With No Forward Chain

Enquire West Malling

£220,000 - £240,000

Lenham



- Two Bedroom Period Cottage
- Some Updating Required
- Close To Village Centre

Enquire Lenham

£175,000

Sutton Valence



- 2 Bedroom Cottage
- Garage And Parking
- Well Presented

Enquire Headcorn

£175,000

North Maidstone



- 2/3 Bed Period Home
- Appointed Over 3 Levels
- Vacant Possession

Enquire Maidstone

£165,000

Wrotham Heath



- 5 Bedroom Detached
- Potential For 2 Bedroom Annex
- Approximate 1/4 Acre Plot

Enquire West Malling

OIEO £500,000

Headcorn



- 2 Bedroom Park Home
- En-Suite to Master Bedroom
- Bus Service to Village

Enquire Larkfield

£159,950

Maidstone



- 2 Bedroom Semi-Detached Home
- Own Driveway to Front & Side
- Approximately 70ft Rear Garden

Enquire Maidstone

£145,000 - £155,000

Bradbourne Fields



- Shelley Design Detached Home
- En Suite To Master Bedroom
- Garage And Driveway

Enquire Larkfield

£269,995

Harrietsham



- Four Bedroom Bungalow
- Grounds Approaching 2.8 Acres
- Extensive Outbuildings

Enquire Lenham

£600,000

Lenham Heath



- Detached Country Home
- Five Bedrooms
- Approximately 1/3 Acre Plot

Enquire Lenham

£480,000

Ditton



- 5 Bedroom Detached Home
- 2 En Suites And Conservatory
- Double Garage And Driveway

Enquire Larkfield

£795,000

Ryarsh



- Refurbished Detached Residence
- Approximately 1/3 Acre Plot
- Offered With No Forward Chain

Enquire West Malling

£625,000 - £675,000

Headcorn



- 3 Bedroom Detached Bungalow
- Garage and Driveway
- 2/3 Reception Areas

Enquire Headcorn

£309,500

Maidstone



- 50% Shared Ownership
- 1 Bedroom Ground Floor Flat
- Small Garden Area to Rear

Enquire Maidstone

£100,000

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- One Bedroom Apartment
- Built-In Appliances

Enquire Lettings

£550pcm

TO LET



- MAIDSTONE
- Two Bedroom Apartment
- Lounge With Balcony

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- MAIDSTONE
- Four Bedroom Home
- Garage And Off-Road Parking

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TO LET



- MEREWORTH
- Converted Coach House
- Garage And Off-Road Parking

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£995pcm

TO LET



- EAST MALLING
- Grade II Listed Cottage
- Inglenook Fireplaces

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Maidstone
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Kingswood | Offers Over: £440,000

- 5 Bedroom Home in Sought After Position
- 4 Reception Rooms, En Suite Dressing and
- Bathroom Detached Double Garage, Wide Plot

BEARSTED OFFICE | 01622 730955



West Malling | Price Range £350,000- £370,000

- Grade II Listed! Two Double Bedroom Semi
- Detached Two Receptions Plus Conservatory
- Garage and Off Road Parking, No Forward Chain!

KING'S HILL OFFICE | 01732 222211



Bradbourne Fields | Price Range: £320,000-£345,000

- Fabulous Family Home On Envious Corner Plot
- Secluded Garden 12' x 10'4 Conservatory
- En-Suite Shower Room, Cloakroom

LARKFIELD OFFICE | 01732 847877



Maidstone Price | Range £220,000-£240,000

- 3 Bedroom Terraced Townhouse
- En-Suite to Master Bedroom

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Bearsted | Price Range: £215,000-£245,000

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- Close To Roseacre School, Garden
- Double Glazed Garage, Cloakroom

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Maidstone Price Range: £195,000-£225,000

- 3 Bedroom Terrace Over 3 Floors
- 2 Reception Rooms, 2 Cellars
- Approx 1/4 Mile Of Town Centre

MAIDSTONE OFFICE | 021622 683737



East Malling | Price: £195,000

- Attractive 2 Bedroom Home
- 15'7 Lounge, Garage En-Bloc
- Gas Central Heating, Garden

LARKFIELD OFFICE | 01732 847877



Maidstone | Price Range £160,000-£180,000

- 3 Bedroom End Terrace
- Semi Rural Location, Parking
- Lounge, Dining Area, Downstairs WC

LOOSE OFFICE | 01622 744067



Snodland | Guide Price: £155,000

- 3 Bedroom Terraced Home
- New Fitted Kitchen and Bathroom,
- Secluded Garden, Allocated Parking

SNODLAND OFFICE | 01634 245055



Bearsted: 01622 730955

Loose: 01622 744067

Kings Hill: 01732 222211

Maidstone: 01622 683737

Larkfield: 01732 847877

Snodland: 01634 245055



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Coxheath

£249,950

Two bedroom bungalow with a refitted kitchen and bathroom. Double glazed conservatory with power and light. Neatly landscaped and detached garage.

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Maidstone

£275,000

Detached riverside double bay fronted cottage on the banks of the River Len. Wildlife lovers and fishermen's paradise. Short walk from town centre.

Maidstone Office

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Maidstone

£89,950

NO CHAIN. A one bedroom starter home. Double bedroom and bathroom on the first floor and a living room and kitchen on the ground floor. Mainly double glazed.

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Maidstone

OIEO £105,000

A unique two bedroom Grade II Listed home. The accommodation is over three floors and has a kitchen and bathroom but does require some work. There are two loft rooms with separate staircases.

Maidstone Office

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Harrietsham

OIEO £150,000

Two bedroom top floor apartment. En-suite to master bedroom. 16'6" x 14'10" Lounge/Dining Room. Double glazing. No chain.

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Maidstone

£165,000

Two Bedroom semi detached bungalow offers for sale with no forward chain and in need of some modernisation. The property has a south facing garden.

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Laddingford

OIEO £195,000

A three bedroom semi detached home. There is a double aspect living room, kitchen and utility room. Gas central heating and double glazing.

Maidstone Office

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Maidstone

£100,000

A Grade II listed three bedroom end of terrace cottage located in the town centre. The accommodation is arranged over three floors and there is no forward chain.

Maidstone Office

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Maidstone

£107,000

An end of terrace one bedroom starter home with double glazing, re-fitted bathroom and parking. No forward chain.

Maidstone Office

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Teston

£215,000

Two bedroom semi detached bungalow with two reception rooms, gardens and off road parking, offered for sale with no chain.

Maidstone Office

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- Three bedroom detached house
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- Within easy reach of the town centre.

£249,995

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Maidstone

- Five bedroom Edwardian house.
- Downstairs cloakroom.
- Off-street parking.

£429,995

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Maidstone

- Self-contained annexe. 3 bedrooms. 2 receptions. Kitchen/diner, bathroom/shower room, 2nd wc. Private garden.

£249,995

CALL OUR MAIDSTONE OFFICE 01622 757213



Maidstone

- 4 bedroom town house 2 bathrooms, garage Ideally placed for maidstone town centre And maidstone west railway station.

£220,000

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Maidstone

- Lovely three bedroom house.
- Walkway location. Superb family home.
- No onward chain. Move straight in.

£155,000

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Leeds

- Two bedroom first floor maisonette,
- Upvc double glazing,
- Private rear garden

£125,000

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Maidstone

- Three bedroom bungalow,
- Double glazing, Gas central heating,
- Gardens and garage

£289,995

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Maidstone

- 2 bed bungalow Conservatory, gardens
- Off road parking and garage.
- Viewing recommended.

OIEO £220,000

CALL OUR MAIDSTONE OFFICE 01622 757213



Maidstone

- 3 bedroom Mid terrace
- Double glazing, 2 reception rooms
- No chain

£170,000

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Weaving

- Two bedroom ground floor maisonette,
- Private rear garden,
- Allocated parking, No chain

£145,000

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Downswood

- first floor studio apartment
- In need of refurbishment.
- Off road parking. Communal gardens.

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Countrywide

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£105,000

One bedroom house rear of Maidstone town centre, viewing advised, open plan lounge/diner and kitchen.

Maidstone,



£129,995

Two bedroom flat, garage and driveway, woodland views, refitted bathroom. Viewing recommended.

Maidstone



OIEO £135,000

Two bedroom first floor apartment decorated in a contemporary style throughout, en suite, fitted kitchen.

Maidstone,



£139,995

Refurbishment and modernisation required. Three bedroom semi-detached house with garage.

Maidstone,



£159,995

Three bedroom house with garage and parking space. Summerhouse in rear garden. Popular location.

Langley,



OIEO £185,000

Three bedroom semi detached family home, lounge/diner, kitchen, utility room, bathroom.

Detling,



£249,995

Unique two bedroom detached bungalow with garage and driveway. Village location. Viewing essential.

Bearsted,



£275,000

Unique four bedroom semi-detached family home. Large plot. Garage and off road parking.

Boughton Monchelsea



£499,995

Unique four bedroom bungalow in semi rural village location. Double garage. Viewing essential.

Bearsted,



OIEO £164,995

Two bedroom end of terrace house including hall, lounge/diner, kitchen and bathroom with garage.

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- KITCHEN / BREAKFAST & DIN-

- ING AREA
- 4 BATHROOMS
- FAMILY ROOM
- SEPARATE GAMES ROOM/STUDY

£795,000

REF: 0000000399



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- INGENUITY FIREPLACES
- 4 BEDROOMS
- 3 CHAMBER CELLAR

- WEALTH OF ORIGINAL FEATURES
- DOUBLE GARAGE
- 3 RECEPTION ROOMS
- CHARACTER PROPERTY

REF: 00000167



Gillingham

- CHALET BUNGALOW
- 4 BEDROOMS
- 2 RECEPTION ROOMS
- DOWNSTAIRS BATHROOM

Offers in Excess of £275,000

- FIRST FLOOR SHOWER ROOM
- ORIGINAL FEATURES
- DRIVE TO SIDE
- CONSERVATORY

REF: 0000000378



Rochester

- 4 BEDROOM FAMILY HOME
- 2 LARGE RECEPTION ROOMS
- 2 BATHROOMS
- 19FT KITCHEN/BREAKFAST ROOM

Offers in Excess of £350,000

- BASEMENT
- DOWNSTAIRS CLOAKROOM
- WELL KEPT GARDEN
- CLOSE TO AMENITIES

REF: 000000099



Walderslade

- 4 BEDROOM DETACHED
- 'SIEMENS' APPLIANCES
- 'SCHMIDT' KITCHEN
- GENEROUS PLOT

- UNDERFLOOR HEATING
- NEW BUILD
- GARAGE
- NO CHAIN

£414,995

REF: 000000083



Walderslade

- UNIQUE 4 BEDROOM DETACHED
- 'L' SHAPED LOUNGE-DINER
- RECEPTION TWO/ STUDY
- MODERN GRD FLR BATHROOM

- CONSERVATORY
- LARGE SECLUDED PLOT
- AMPLE OFF ROAD PARKING
- DETACHED GARAGE

£330,000

REF: 00000121



Newington

- 4 BEDROOM DETACHED
- 3 RECEPTION ROOMS
- EN-SUITE
- GOOD SIZED REAR GARDEN

Guide Price £365,000 - £385,000

- SECLUDED LOCATION
- SWEEPING DRIVEWAY
- GARAGE
- VILLAGE LOCATION

REF: GRV02606



Chatham

- MODERN 4 BEDROOM DETACHED
- 16FT LOUNGE
- VICTORIAN STYLE CONSERVATORY
- ENSUITE TO MASTER BEDROOM

- DOWNSTAIRS CLOAKROOM
- GARAGE & O.R.P
- SOUTH FACING REAR GARDEN
- BLUE BELL HILL VILLAGE

£279,995

REF: 00000412



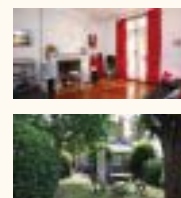
Walderslade

- 3 BEDROOM DET BUNGALOW
- 19FT LOUNGE
- 14FT KITCHEN/BREAKFAST ROOM
- 18FT CONSERVATORY

- FAMILY BATHROOM
- DET GARAGE & AMPLE O.R.P
- LARGE REAR GARDEN
- MUST BE VIEWED INTERNALLY

£299,995

REF: 0000000139



Gillingham

- DETACHED
- 3 DOUBLE BEDROOMS
- 2 RECEPTION ROOMS/CELLAR
- NO FORWARD CHAIN

- SASH WINDOWS
- ORIGINAL FEATURES
- ENCLOSED REAR GARDENS
- POTENTIAL FOR O.R.P

£249,995

REF: 0000000234



YOUR MOVE

This is our view of the current property market

We don't talk the market down - we look for ways to make the market work for our customers. We know that it will be full of challenges and we look forward to every one of them.

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EAR8059 06/2009



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• Two Bedroom Park Home
• Driveway • Use Of Rear Garden

MAIDSTONE £150,000



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• Ground Floor Apartment • Two Beds
• En-suite To Master • Open Plan

MAIDSTONE £174,950



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• Extended Victorian Home • 3 / 4
Bedrooms • Kitchen • Lounge

MAIDSTONE £284,500



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• Townhouse • Four Bedrooms • En-
suite Shower To Master • Kitchen

BEARSTED £225,000



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• Bungalow • Two Beds • Lounge/
Dining Room • Fitted Kitchen

BEARSTED £222,500



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• Semi Detached Bungalow • Two
Bedrooms • Lounge/Dining Room

LANGLEY £475,000



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• Extended • Character Features
• Three Receptions • Cloakroom/WC

HARRIETSHAM £799,000



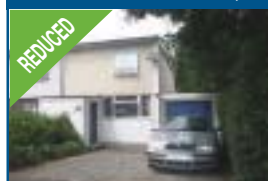
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• Extended & Refurbished • Six Beds
• Drawing Room & Dining Room

MAIDSTONE £275,000



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• Heavily Extended • 4 Bedrooms
• Sitting Room • Family/Dining Room

MAIDSTONE £117,999



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• Spacious End Of Terrace Home • 2
Beds • Garage • Additional Parking

MAIDSTONE £84,995



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• Retirement Apartment • Town Centre
Proximity • Communal Gardens

MAIDSTONE £95,000



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• Studio Apartment • Riverside
Development • Kitchen

MAIDSTONE £349,950



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• Extended Semi
Detached Home
• Four Bedrooms
• En-suite To Master
Bedroom
• Three Reception
Rooms
• Kitchen
• South Facing Garden
• Stunning Views Over
Farleigh

HARRIETSHAM £172,500



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0845 370 9718
• Three Bedrooms
• Lounge/Dining Room
• Kitchen
• Bathroom/WC
• Gas Fired Central
Heating
• Double Glazing As
Stated
• Established Rear
Garden

MAIDSTONE £229,950



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• Semi Detached Chalet Bungalow • Three Bedrooms
• Sitting Room • Dining Room • Kitchen / Breakfast Room
• Established Garden • Sought After Location • Driveway
• Double Glazing Where Stated • Viewing Essential

HARRIETSHAM £750,000



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• Chalet Style Home • Set Within Approx 2.75 Acre Grounds
• Five Bedrooms - 2 En-suite • Conservatory • Lounge &
Dining Room • Kitchen • O.F.C.H & Double Glazing As Stated
• Detached Double Garage & Workshop

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MAIDSTONE £105,000



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- First Floor Maisonette • Two Bedrooms • End Of Chain

MAIDSTONE £200,000



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- 3 Bedrooms • Sitting/Dining Room • Fitted Kitchen & Bathroom

MAIDSTONE £218,995



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- Three Bedrooms • Over 3 Floors • 2 Receptions • Rear Garden

BEARSTED £145,000



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- First Floor Maisonette • Two Bedrooms • Fitted Kitchen • Lounge

LEEDS £280,000



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- Modern Home • 3 Beds • Lounge & Dining Room • Fitted Kitchen

DOWNSWOOD £130,000



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- One Bed Starter Home • Living Room/Dining Room • Fitted Kitchen

SUTTON VALENCE £120,000



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- Plot With Planning Permission • B1 Office Use Only • Existing Garage/Workshop

MAIDSTONE £249,995



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- Refurbished Home • 4 Bedrooms • Sitting/Dining Room • Conservatory

MAIDSTONE £325,000



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- Attractive House • 4 Beds • Drawing Room • 2 Further Receptions

DITTON £375,000



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- Period Cottage • PART EXCHANGE UP TO £200K CONSIDERED • Three Bedrooms • En Suite Shower • Refitted Bathroom • 3 Receptions • Granite Worktop

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SUTTON VALENCE £339,995



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- Oast Style Detached House • 3 Bedrooms • 32ft Drawing Room • Separate Dining Room • Garage And Driveway • Master Bedroom With En-suite • Far Reaching Views Of The Weald • Semi Rural Location

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Maidstone Branch



Connells

Maidstone £129,950



- Mid Terrace 3 Bedroom House
- Parking & Utility Room
- Upstairs Bathroom
- NO ONWARD CHAIN!!!!!!

Maidstone £134,950



- 2 Bedroom End Of Terrace
- Allocated Parking
- Separate Lounge & Kitchen
- NO ONWARD CHAIN!!!!

Maidstone £179,950



- 3 Bedroom Terrace Home
- Ensuite to master bedroom
- Downstairs Cloakroom
- NO ONWARD CHAIN

Penenden Heath £159,995



- Mid Terrace 2 Bedroom Home
- Completely Refurbished
- Ensuite to Master Bedroom
- Utility room - Kitchen Diner

Penenden Heath £230,000



- 3/4 Bedroom Chalet Bungalow
- Cul De Sac Location
- Driveway & Garage
- No Forward Chain

Maidstone £325,000



- Attractive & Extended Home
- 4 Double Bedrooms
- Well Presented Throughout
- Mature Established Gardens

Maidstone £169,995



- 2 Double Bedroom S/D Home
- Garage & Driveway
- Corner Plot
- Rear Patio and Garden To The Side

Snodland £215,000



- Extended three bedroom house
- Kitchen and Shower Room
- Garage and Driveway
- Well Presented Throughout

Maidstone £215,000



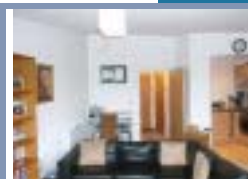
- 3 Bed Semi Detached Home
- Garage and ORP
- Conservatory
- Ensuite to the Master Bedroom

Maidstone £155,000



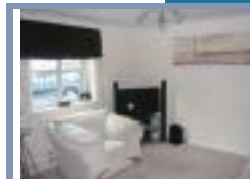
- Attractive 2 Bedroom House
- Accommodation over three floors
- 2 Reception Rooms
- Cellar & Parking At The Rear

Maidstone £96,000



- Top floor Studio Apartment
- Balcony,
- Lifts and concierge
- Modern fitted kitchen

Eccles £125,000



- Immaculate apartment
- Kitchen with integrated appliances
- Private garden
- Allocated parking space

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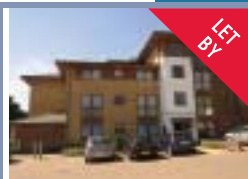
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Maidstone Branch



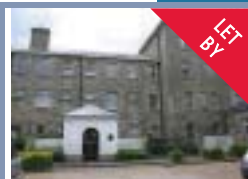
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Maidstone £535 PCM



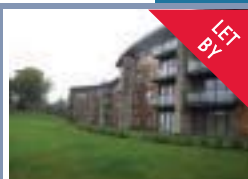
- Two Bedroom Apartment
- Allocated Parking
- Kitchen with white goods

Maidstone £625 PCM



- Two Bedroom Apartment
- Ensuite to Master
- Allocated Parking
- Kitchen With Appliances

Maidstone £695 PCM



- Two Double Bedroom Apartment
- Fitted Kitchen with Appliances
- Balcony & Large Living Room

Coxheath £695 PCM



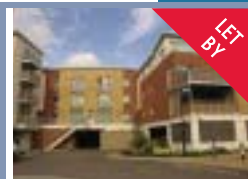
- Three Bedroom House
- Large Garden
- Kitchen with Appliances
- Parking for 3 cars

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Maidstone £650 PCM



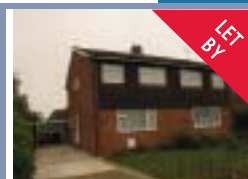
- Two Bedroom Top Floor Apartment
- Kitchen With Appliances
- Gated Development
- Close to Town Centre

Maidstone £650 PCM



- Two Bedroom Duplex Apartment
- Allocated Parking
- Separate Kitchen with Appliances

Snodland £725 PCM



- Two Bedroom House
- New Development
- Garage
- Rear Garden

Maidstone £800 PCM



- Four Bedroom House
- Two Receptions
- Kitchen With Appliances
- Parking for three cars

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TUFTON £625 pcm



Superb 2 Bed House, GCH, DGL, Close To Town Centre,

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MOTORS NEWS



Baby Land Rover given the green light to roll

LAND Rover has confirmed it will press the production button on its exciting LRX concept (pictured) – it goes on sale in 2011.

Billed as the “smallest, lightest and most efficient vehicle” LR has ever produced, it will slot in below the current Freelander and is tipped to offer greener technologies including a hybrid powertrain option. It will also guarantee the future of the newly-formed Jaguar Land Rover group's production plant at Halewood, Merseyside.



Hybrids can be fun as Peugeot aims to show

PEUGEOT is not only readying a diesel-electric hybrid for sale, but also pitching the idea that hybrids can be fun.

The type will debut in the French marque's new Nissan Qashqai-bashing 3008, launched initially in conventional mode next month, but the RCZ Coupé hybrid concept spin-off pictured here raises the pulse more than most hybrids.

It has 200bhp from electrically driven rear wheels and a diesel front end, yet averages nearly 80mpg and evades road tax with just 95g/km of CO2 emissions.



Focus wins again – this time as star used buy

BRITAIN'S best-selling motor has also won a major accolade from the influential What Car? Used Car of the Year 2009 awards.

The Ford Focus, in 1.6 Zetec Climate form, took the ‘best small family car’ title for its economy and reputation for reliability. The judging panel said: “There's good head and legroom in the front and back, and room for five people. The boot is a generous size and easy to load; fold down the rear seats and you can move masses of stuff.”



DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION: Launched in 2003, the current 5-Series styling remains controversial, however BMW's big seller handles beautifully and continues to tick the right boxes

BMW star continues to wear badge with pride

FOR years, the BMW 5-Series held pride of place in the management suite. But a new recruit with a familiar name has upset the seating plan.

This upstart is Jaguar's stunning new XF and, all of a sudden, even the big selling BMW 520d – the number one aspirational manager's motor, which outsells all other 5-Series models put together – looks like history... Or does it?

Launched in 2003, current 5-Series styling remains controversial and, while this has helped maintain freshness, previews of a looming replacement suggest a comeback for BMW conservatism.

Whatever you think of the car's looks though, the proof of the pudding is in the eating and summarised by a car loving mate of mine who described his 520d as: “The best bloody company car I've ever had”; this from someone who has enjoyed a succession of six-cylinder Audis and BMWs, including a much missed previous generation 523i.

My overriding impression was the 520d's ability to cope with everything thrown at it thanks to an engine that pulls like a train

ROAD TEST BMW 5-SERIES

BY STEVE LOADER

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Green rating	★★★★★

when needed, while sipping fuel when driven sensibly, all helped by a beautifully weighted six-speed gearbox.

A mid-life facelift added some of BMW's EfficientDynamics technology; energy recovery from braking now tops-up the battery to prevent the alternator sapping engine power.

As usual, official fuel figures are optimistic, but averaging nearly 50mpg is not unreasonable unless you exploit the engine's low-mid range punch and amazing poise for such a big car (0-62mph in 8.3 seconds); balance and economy is helped by all-aluminium bodywork ahead of the windscreen. It will hustle along country lanes making about as much fuss as it does when quietly cruising motorways.

The cabin is spacious and typically well-arranged, if clinical, and now features a more user-friendly sounds/navigation/technology interface than on launch models.

Leather is a £1,340 ‘must have’ extra to an otherwise attractive £27,430 price for an entry level 5-Series that is a long way from petrol 518i ‘poverty spec’ models of past generations, when snobby company car users would ask for the boot badge to be deleted from their order – ‘520d’, on the other hand, may be worn with pride.



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USED CAR ROUND-UP: OUR PICK FROM A KEY SECTOR

BRITAIN'S FAVOURITE SUPERMINIS

AS more people downsize their car, fuel and road tax bills, chances are that one or all of the following popular used superminis will be on their shopping list. Year in, year out they are the UK's most consistent best-sellers – a growing trend in the current economic climate. The trio are also excellent all-rounders, but a word of warning: second-hand car prices are robust at present so don't pay more than it would cost to keep your old car longer or trade up to a new car.

FORD FIESTA



FORD'S hugely successful supermini has marched on with a new model launched in late 2008, but don't expect weaker used prices; the credit crunch, rising fuel prices and draconian road taxes have made the Fiesta a top target for its reliability, decent driving experience, engines to suit all pockets and three and five-door body styles. Ford has also regularly produced special and limited editions laden with extra goodies, offering plenty more choice – there's even a hot ST model.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

RENAULT CLIO



DOWNSIZING can be sensible and chic with the Clio and the most recent generations have married durability and driving fun with Gallic charm. Again, the option of three or five doors is a big selling point, but our French contender also has the bonus of excellent diesel versions, though the cost of the actual fuel versus petrol argues against it currently. The Clio design has tended to be highly practical as well as charming, with good space for rear passengers.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

VAUXHALL CORSA



VAUXHALL'S Corsa was created to attack the Fiesta, yet has never quite achieved the volumes of its rival. Nevertheless, it offers similar virtues, plus a greater range of engines including a punchy and frugal three-cylinder petrol engine now in greater demand due to these straitened times. Several generations of Corsa followed a 'teardrop' body style, but the latest car is bigger and more aggressively sculpted – almost a 'supersize supermini' – with a sporty VXR version too.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

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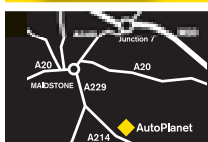
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				11.9% APR	

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Senior & General Appointments 49-52

Forward Care (Residential) Ltd

Providing Residential Care for Adults with Learning Disabilities

We currently require a Support Worker to cover shifts for Nights. To work 3 to 4 Nights per week
All posts requires a NVQ Level 2 required minimum of 6 months experience
Interested candidates should apply in writing enclosing a recent CV.

Administrative Manager – Christine Morgan
Hill Farm
15 Keycol Hill
Sittingbourne
Kent ME9 8LZ

Previous applicants need not apply

ROCKDALE HOUSE

HOME HELP

for Sheltered Housing apartments in central Sevenoaks

£7.24 per hour – 22 hours a week
(9am – 2.30pm Tuesday to Friday - with some possible flexibility)

Duties will include general cleaning in residents flats, shopping, laundry etc.

Pension scheme, free parking on site.
Company sick pay after 6 months, health plan.

For details please ring
Jay Drake, Personnel Manager on 01732 458762
We will apply for an Enhanced CRB
Disclosure for this post

Brambles Care Home

We require a HOUSEKEEPER

19.5 hours pw

to join our small team providing cleaning and kitchen support to our elderly residents
Contact Kevin or Sheila for a job description and application form.

WYE, ASHFORD - Tel: 01233 813217

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or e-mail brian.smith@baileysnissan.co.uk

SOUTH BOROUGH PRIMARY SCHOOL NURSERY ASSISTANT

Permanent Position. 37 hours per week, full-time. Grade: Kent Scheme 3.

South Borough Primary School, Maidstone, is seeking an experienced Nursery Assistant to work as part of our friendly and dynamic team. NVQ Level 3 in Early Years/Childcare is essential.

For details, contact the school on 01622 752161.

Closing date (applications): 2nd October 2009
Interviews: 7th October 2009
Start date: 9th November 2009 (or asap)

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THE QUEST SCHOOL

We wish to appoint a **qualified teacher** and **teaching assistant** to work at our specialist school for children with autism age 8-16 years.

Start date – January 2010

The right candidates will be dynamic and enthusiastic. Special needs experience preferred, a desire to make a difference in children's lives essential.

Please download an application form at
www.questschool.co.uk and return to:

Quest School, The Old Stables, Church Farm, Church Rd, Offham, West Malling, ME19 5NX. Tel: 01732 522700

Email: quest_school@btconnect.com

Closing date for applications: Friday 09th October

Quest School is an equal opportunities employer.

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Supervising Social Worker SOUTH LONDON BASED

Salary range - £28 - £30k (+ Benefits) p/t position

As a qualified Social Worker, ideally with experience in fostering, we want the carers and children in care to benefit from your enthusiasm and creativity. Your commitment will be to improve outcomes for children and young people through the management and development of exceptional foster carers in South London and Surrey.

On top of an excellent salary we offer a range of benefits including 25 days paid leave, the opportunity to 'work from home', career progression and a personal training account. Your role will involve regular travel and participation on the 'on call' duty rota.

Duty & Referrals Co-ordinator KENT BASED

£16k (+ Benefits) f/t position

The successful applicant will have a local authority background as either a Social Work Assistant or residential/education services. You will have significant experience of a fostering environment and be able to demonstrate a good understanding of support to foster carers and young people in care. Contracting and commissioning experience and a marketing/PR qualification would be advantageous.

Your focus will be on good placement matching, professional support and credibly representing FosterCare UK. An ability to understand and manage challenge and risk is essential for this post.

You will have the commercial skill-set necessary to respond flexibly and creatively to duty matters and support the social work team in effectively delivering outstanding services to our young people, foster carers and local authority partners.

Independent Form F Assessors

£1600 per Assessment

We are keen to recruit additional Independent Assessors that can undertake Competency based Form F Assessments across Kent, London, Surrey, Essex and Hertfordshire.

Independent Support Workers/Mentors

Hourly rate payment

Additional Support Workers/Mentors are required to complete a range of duties on a bespoke basis, in particular we are interested in people who have worked on a 1:1 basis with young people, supervised contact and offered driving and escorting services.

Apply now!

0844 800 1941

For an information pack and application form, please telephone or email: enquiries@fostercareuk.co.uk quoting the position you are interested in.

We value skills and are committed to the further development of our people to ensure we remain at the forefront of the profession.



Closing date for completed applications is Monday 5th October 2009 • www.fostercareuk.co.uk

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NORTHFLEET SCHOOL FOR GIRLS
Hall Road, Northfleet, Kent DA11 8AQ

We are seeking to appoint

SCHOOL INCLUSION OFFICER

£13,272-£14,598 p.a.

Up to 35 Hours per week (8.15 am to 3.45 p.m.) Term Time Only
Initially a one year fixed term contract to 31.8.2010

The role will involve

- Running the school inclusion room (an alternative to fixed term exclusion)
- Dealing with parental enquiries through telephone and face-to-face meetings including investigation and mediation.
- Promoting good attendance, attitudes and behaviour at all times
- Assisting with a range of administrative support including support to exclusion, discipline and other student related meetings.

A flexible approach to working and the ability to work as part of a team and under your own initiative are essential. Good communication skills at all levels are essential.

Experience of working with young people in an educational, Youth and Community or similar environment would be an advantage.

Please submit full CV giving details of previous experience and the name of two referees to Mrs S Chisholm, Personnel Administrator at Northfleet School for Girls, Hall Road, Northfleet, Kent DA11 8AQ or email: personnel@northfleetgirls.kent.sch.uk

Closing date for applications: 12 October 2009

We are seeking to appoint

RECEPTIONIST/ADMINISTRATOR

Afternoon/Evening Term Time Only – 3 pm to 7 pm (9.30 pm)
Core 20 hours per week /Term Time Only
Salary Scale Kent Scheme Grade 4 £7218 to £7584

The successful applicant will be computer literate, have excellent communication skills enabling them to communicate effectively with both students and adults, and be able to prioritise and work under pressure. Confident and competent use of the telephone is essential. A qualified first aider would be preferred, although training will be given.

This is a job share position and hours of work will be 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Monday to Thursday and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday – 39 weeks per year – with hours extending to 9.30 p.m. when required. Cover for during the day may occasionally also be needed.

Please submit full CV giving details of previous experience and why you feel this is the post for you to Mrs S Chisholm, Personnel Administrator at Northfleet School for Girls, Hall Road, Northfleet, Kent DA11 8AQ or email: personnel@northfleetgirls.kent.sch.uk

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If it's time for you to enjoy the rewards you deserve please write enclosing your CV, quoting reference SVS329/KOS, to Alice Forsyth, HR Officer, Saga Group Limited, Enbrook Park, Folkestone, Kent CT20 3SE or e-mail: human.resources@saga.co.uk Alternatively, please call 01303 774888 for an application form or download one from our website.

Closing date: 9 October 2009.

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The John Townsend Trust
Royal School for Deaf Children
Margate
Westgate College for Deaf People
Community Living Services
Monkshill Farm

Speech and Language Therapist

Salary up to £37,000 p.a. pro rata.
Term Time Only

We provide education and care for young deaf people with additional needs including learning and communication difficulties. The post involves assessment, delivery of therapy within a multi-disciplinary team and in close collaboration with parents and carers. British Sign Language training will be provided.

Terms and Conditions:

Permanent, Term Time only. Salary according to qualifications and experience.

We are committed to equal opportunities and diversity, encouraging and welcoming applications from all groups and communities.

We expect all staff to be committed to our Child and Adult Protection policies and procedures. All positions are subject to an enhanced Criminal Records Bureau check, references, evidence of qualifications and a work history which can be fully checked.

For an application pack please contact Human Resources Department, telephone 01843 227561, email:

hr@royalschoolfordeaf.kent.sch.uk or
download an application form from our
website: www.rsdcm.org.uk

Closing Date: 2nd October 2009



The John Townsend Trust
Royal School for Deaf Children
Margate
Westgate College for Deaf People
Community Living Services
Monkshill Farm

We offer residential education and care for deaf children and young adults with additional needs and young people with communication difficulties.

This is an exciting time to join us as we expand our residential and care services team.

We require:

Registered Manager

£31,989 - £39,954

Terms and Conditions:

An experienced and confident Registered Manager for our Adult Care Homes. You must have NVQ Level 4 and RMA/Leadership and Management or equivalent.

Senior Practitioner

£25,005 - £31,445.57

An enthusiastic and committed practitioner to join our operational leadership team. This exciting new role will require you to promote best practice within our services.

Terms and Conditions.

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We expect all staff to be as committed as we are to our Child and Adult Protection policies and procedures. All positions are subject to an enhanced Criminal Records Bureau check, references, evidence of qualifications, and a fully checkable work history.

For an application pack please contact Human Resources Department, telephone 01843 227561, email:

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Closing Date: Friday 2nd October 2009



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Enquiries or visits to the Academy are welcome.

Please contact Jennifer Spooner on direct telephone number 01843 598550 or email to address above.

We look forward to hearing from you.

The closing date for post: Friday 9th October 2009

Brambles Care Home

require an

Assistant Manager

32 hours pw

Assisting the manager to lead our staff team to deliver excellent quality care to the homes elderly residents .

Applicants will be self motivated and enthusiastic with exceptional interpersonal skills and previous experience in a supervisory role within a care setting.

Applicants will hold suitable care qualifications and will possess good levels of IT skills.

The post requires some weekend and on-call working.

For an informal discussion, a job description and application form contact

Kevin or Sheila

Bramble Lane, Wye, Ashford, Kent TN25 5EE
Tel: 01233 813217



Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School
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Salary negotiable according to experience and skills

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If you are interested in working with bright, talented pupils, many of whom go on to study Mathematics at university, then please contact the Headteacher's PA, Mrs Jacqueline Harrison, 01634 844008 or visit our website
www.sirjosephwilliamson.medway.sch.uk where further details and an application form can be downloaded.

We are committed to the safeguarding and wellbeing of children and any offer of employment will be subject to a satisfactory Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau check.

Closing date for applications - 7th October 2009



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Starting salary £30,219, with progression through contribution related pay to £35,724 per annum

Full-time

This is an exciting and innovative opportunity to manage and further develop the effective co-ordination of the Kent Common Assessment Framework (CAF) in Thanet.

You will be working with officers and practitioners across Kent County Council directorate and Kent Children's Trust Partner Agencies to ensure there is an effective process established in Thanet.

You will need substantial experience of leadership, management of change, staff supervision and a high level of political and organisational skill. Tact and diplomacy are pre-requisites along with a commitment to improving the outcomes for children and their families. You will be required to monitor and review the integrated systems and framework to ensure the needs identified through the CAF process can be addressed. As Thanet will benefit from extra resources to address the high level of need, you will also be able to develop the process to promote family assessments through the 'Think Family' pilot.

This post will be based at Clover House, Whitstable and will involve travelling to Thanet for meetings.

This post is subject to an Enhanced Disclosure Application to the Criminal Records Bureau.

Previous applicants need not apply.

To apply, visit www.kent.gov.uk/jobs

Alternatively, please email recruitment.line@kent.gov.uk or call 0845 8247 904. Please quote reference number CFE/09/0421.

Closing date: Midday 5th October 2009.

Interviews are expected to take place on the afternoons of 13th & 14th October 2009.



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Counselling Training with:

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Only suitable for qualified Counsellors (or in final year of Diploma)
Starting January 2010 consisting of 30 hours over 8 evenings and 2 Saturdays
Cost is £200 which can be refunded if the Counsellor completes 50hrs counselling for East Kent Reline

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SENIOR SCIENCE TECHNICIAN

Pent Valley Technology College:

11-18 mixed 1400 pupils

Salary: Kent Scheme 7 (£20,262 – £23,053 pro-rata)
Term-time plus 10 days (40 weeks)

Hours: 37 hours per week

The successful candidate will be joining a Science Department which is well resourced and has a strong team of Specialist Teachers. The department resources are well-maintained and plentiful, all laboratories having their own smart boards and projectors. We aim to maintain high standards from our students at all times, by leading by example.

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Picture: MICK GELL



NEW DAWN: Medway & Maidstone's new running track hopes to draw more people to the sport

ATHLETICS

Club hope to build on track opening

MEDWAY & Maidstone Athletic Club chairman Paul Alcock expects membership figures to double following the opening of their brand new athletics track at Sutton Valence School.

After three years of planning, Maidstone's first athletics track for 25 years was opened last week by Sir Roger Bannister, the first man to run a sub four-minute mile.

The track, partly funded by Sutton Valence School, Maidstone council and Medway & Maidstone Athletic Club, will be open for use for the club's 350 members five-times-a-week.

Alcock, who has been influential in the track project, is looking forward to the impact it will have on the club and athletics in the Maidstone area.

He told Yourmaidstone: "We have been losing a lot of athletes to other clubs and we have been losing them because they don't know how good they are. Now we have a got a track on their doorstep we will be able to tell them how good they are and hopefully they can progress to better things."

The club are yet to release any fixtures at the new track, but Alcock revealed the venue could potentially host the Kent County Championships next year.

Bannister, who competed at the 1952 Olympics, also believes the venue will enhance the chances of the county producing a future Olympian.

He said: "You can never predict who will come through in athletics. I only wish we had these kind of facilities years ago when I was still running."

PLEASE SEND YOUR SPORTS STORIES TO SPORTS EDITOR GLENN PEARSON AT
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Picture: ADY KERRY



SPECIAL MOMENTS: (Left) Matt Coles faced a tough challenge coming up against New Zealand international stars in his First-Class debut for Kent last week and (right) Geraint Jones picks up the player of the year award from club president Carl Openshaw on Sunday

Coles hopes to learn from his baptism of fire in Kent debut

CRICKET

■ BY GLENN PEARSON

MATT Coles admits going for a hundred runs on his championship debut was not the ideal start to his First-Class career.

The Kent youngster, from Maidstone, was thrown in for his first County Championship game against Gloucestershire at Bristol, where he came up against New Zealand internationals Hamish Marshall and James Franklin in good form.

The 18-year-old was expensive when asked to bowl by skipper Rob Key, going for 130 runs from his 17 overs, but he did claim his first two wickets in the process when Chris Taylor and Anthony Ireland were sent back to the pavilion.

The former Maplesden Noakes schoolboy, who is in his last year on the Kent Academy, said it was a special moment making his championship debut and one that will help further his career development.

"It was a pretty tough start, but I thought I bowled reasonably well considering the pitch was so flat," he told Yourmaidstone. "It has been a learning curve being whacked around and hopefully one that I will come back from a better bowler."

"I was just trying to think about it as being just another game of cricket but with a name on your back if I'm honest. I know I am good enough to play at this level, I just need to back myself."

The young all-rounder was harshly dealt with in Kent's innings defeat, conceding that he had bowled either two short or too full at times, but feels the experience of playing First-Class cricket has been of benefit.

"On the pitch is the best way to learn how to

do things and what you need to spend time working on," he said. "I suppose it gives you the bigger picture, in terms of your game, rather than watching on the sidelines. Going into next year, I can spend the winter working on hitting the right length consistently, that's something I worked out when facing Jon Lewis. He gave me nothing to hit."

Coles has already gained experience of playing in the first-team having featured in the Kent Spitfires' Pro40 campaign this season and is one of several young players hoping to break into the side next season. That, combined with making his debut in competitive four-day cricket is likely to stand him in good stead, although being hit around the Bristol ground might make it one he forgets in a rush.

"Amjad Khan and Simon Cook said to me afterwards that you are not a true championship bowler until you have gone for a hundred runs," he said. "I just didn't expect that to come in my first game."

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Banana skin avoided as Stones progress in cup

FOOTBALL

BY FRED ATKINS

Harefield 0

Maidstone United 2

Edge 45, Pinnock 87

IT WASN'T always pretty, but Maidstone booked their place in the third qualifying round of the FA Cup with a professional display against minnows Harefield on Saturday.

"Sometimes you just want to get the job done and get out of the place," Stones' joint-manager Alan Walker told Yourmaidstone. "They weren't a bad side and although we didn't play well, we always had enough to beat them."

Harefield, who play in the Spartan South Midlands League, the equivalent of the Kent League, kept the visitors in check until the final minute of an uneventful first half.

Jay Saunders and James Pinnock produced some clever interplay on the left before the former produced a low cross that Roland Edge steered in from close range.

Harefield looked a far better side after the break but failed to convert the limited number of chances they created, the best of which was a shot from Adam Willis that was heading for the top corner until Jamie Turner intervened.

Jamie Houlston should have equalised when he lost his marker but headed straight at Turner and with three minutes to go the Stones made the tie safe when Jimmy Bottle cut the ball back to Pinnock for an easy finish.

Harefield went for broke in the closing



ON TARGET: James Pinnock put Maidstone ahead as they got the job done against their opponents from the Midlands

stages and left gaps at the back that Maidstone nearly exploited. Jay Saunders was denied by the keeper four minutes into stoppage time and Nick Barnes shot wide.

Had that gone in it might have silenced the increasingly-dwindling numbers in the irrational anti-Barnes brigade once and for all.

Walker, however, was unconcerned. "I thought Nicky Barnes was probably our best player and Roland Edge worked so hard it was unbelievable. I don't think anyone had a stinker, but some of them were mediocre."

The Stones will now travel to the winners of Tuesday night's replay between Conference South side Woking and Kent League Hythe in the next round, after they drew 2-2 at Reachfields on Saturday.

Maidstone starting XI



Subs used: Bottle (Bottle 32)

"It's an interesting draw," Walker said. "The one thing it does is give me a chance to get down there (to Woking) and have a really good look at them both. Woking are obviously favourites, but Hythe are by no means out of it."

The tie will take place on October 10. Maidstone are away to Bognor Regis Town in the Ryman Premier Division on Saturday.



POSITIVES: Maidstone (pictured playing in red and white) showed signs of improvement despite the one-sided score

Maidstone bottom after total mauling

Sidcup 35 Maidstone 0

LIFE doesn't get any easier for Maidstone in London 1 South, as despite producing some of their best rugby of the season so far, they slumped to another hefty defeat that leaves them bottom of the table.

There were signs of encouragement for Maidstone, who unlike in last week's dispiriting loss at home to Tunbridge Wells, at least looked like scoring and made a string of chances in the first half.

Their failure to convert any of these proved crucial as the defence could only hold out for so long. Having repelled Sidcup for 25 minutes, the visitors finally went behind when they were penalised at a ruck and the home side kicked a penalty from 35 metres in front of the posts.

A second penalty from a more difficult position out wide made it 6-0 on the half hour, but with Tommy King and Peter Horne repeatedly breaking through the middle, there were signs of hope for the second half.

Instead, they squandered an early chance to put pressure on their hosts when they missed touch with a penalty.

Sidcup should have been penned deep in their own half, but instead they ran the ball back into the Maidstone 22 and scored under the posts to make it 13-0.

Five minutes later they stretched their lead with another try to make it 18-0 and the visitors' fate was effectively sealed on 55 minutes when Sidcup kicked a penalty from 40 metres out.

With Maidstone tiring, Sidcup ran in two further tries, making it 35-0 with ten minutes left, but the visitors prevented further damage.

Some of the sting went out of the game when King and his opposite number were yellow-carded, forcing a switch to uncontested scrums.

LEAGUE TABLES

RYMAN PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	Gd	Pt
1 Dartford	9	8	1	0	+26	25
2 Canvey Island	9	5	2	2	+3	17
3 Wealdstone	9	4	4	1	+5	16
4 Tonbridge Angels	9	4	3	2	+5	15
5 Maidstone United	9	4	3	2	+3	15
6 Aveley	9	4	2	3	+3	14
7 Hastings United	9	4	2	3	+3	14
8 Tooting & Mitcham U	9	4	2	3	+2	14
9 Boreham Wood	9	4	1	4	+2	13
10 Hendon	9	4	1	4	-1	13
11 Kingstonian	9	4	1	4	-8	13
12 Sutton United	9	4	0	5	+2	12
13 Harrow Borough	9	3	3	3	0	12
14 Horsham	9	3	2	4	0	11
15 Ashford Town (Mx)	9	3	2	4	-2	11
16 Carshalton Athletic	9	3	2	4	-6	11
17 AFC Hornchurch	10	3	2	5	-7	11
18 Margate	10	3	2	5	-9	11
19 Cray Wanderers	9	3	1	5	-3	10
20 Billericay Town	9	1	5	3	-2	8
21 Waltham Abbey	9	1	4	4	-4	7
22 Bognor Regis Town	9	1	1	7	-12	4

FIXTURES (Saturday): Ryman Premier Division: Bognor Regis Town v Maidstone United

Bulls falter after bright start against Chobham

RUGBY

Chobham 34 Aylesford Bulls 13

MENTAL fragility proved Aylesford's downfall on Saturday, as they wasted territorial advantage, possession and a succession of opportunities against their Surrey rivals.

The early signs looked encouraging for the Bulls as they went in search of their first win of the London 1 South season, but despite dominating the scrum and repeatedly opening the defence, they only had a Dan Harvey penalty to show for their efforts.

Chobham failed to release the ball in the tackle and Harvey kicked the Bulls ahead on 15 minutes, but the home side drew level almost immediately when Aylesford were penalised after spilling the kick-off, gifting Chobham a kick in front of the posts.

It looked like being a minor set back as Aylesford continued to dominate, but poor decision-making saw them waste their hard work and on 26 minutes the tide turned decisively when Chobham broke out from their own 22 and scored a try with a slick passing move.

In the next 13 minutes the home side scored



OVER-RUN: Aylesford Bulls (red) broke down after starting strongly against Chobham

two converted tries and kicked a penalty.

Aylesford gave themselves a chance by scoring on the stroke of half-time, with Lee Lawrence bursting through to give Harvey a simple conversion, but the 17-point deficit proved insurmountable.

Harvey cut the gap with a penalty on 65 minutes, but the revival was ended when a speculative kick bounced over Luke Cherrington with 15 minutes left and Chobham grabbed a fortunate but crucial try – and an easy conversion.

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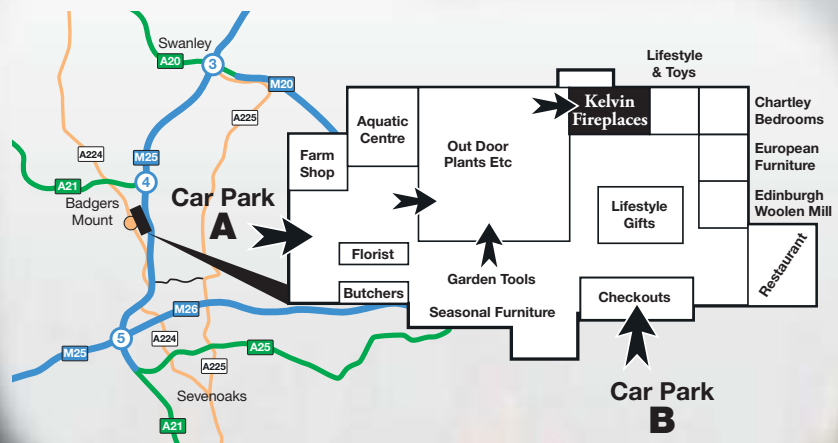
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